

# Mud and ash bury town as Colombia pleads for rescue aid

## Death toll in volcano disaster may be 20,000

From Geoffrey Matthews, Colombia

At least 20,000 people are feared dead in central Colombia after a volcanic eruption triggered massive flash floods. The disaster struck an area of about 7,000 square kilometres, almost completely burying one town in mud, debris and ash.

Colombia has appealed to the United States for helicopters to rescue survivors stranded on rooftops and in trees in what is Colombia's worst natural disaster.

The snow-capped, 5,400 metres high Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted on Wednesday night. A local parish priest said "A tremendous explosion" rocked surrounding towns and villages in the coffee growing region.

Panic swept the area as volcanic ash showered down. The heat from the eruption caused the peak's snow and ice to melt and flash floods resulted as rivers overflowed.

Principally affected were the northern region of Tolima department and areas of the neighbouring Caldas and Cundamarca departments.

He said many people had died for lack of immediate medical attention.

The volcano yesterday continued to erupt with gases, and geologists predict an eruption of lava in the next few days.

Local authorities appealed for food, medicine, blood for transfusions and bandages to be rushed to the area. The disaster left the region with no drinkable water.

"We are in a real emergency here," said a military official acting as a coordinator of the local police, civil defence and Red Cross in Ibagué, the departmental capital of Tolima.

In Casabiana, a small village near the volcano, residents spoke of a "rain of rocks" after the initial eruption. Ash from the volcano fell on areas more than 100 miles away. The odour of sulphur in the atmosphere caused many people to faint.

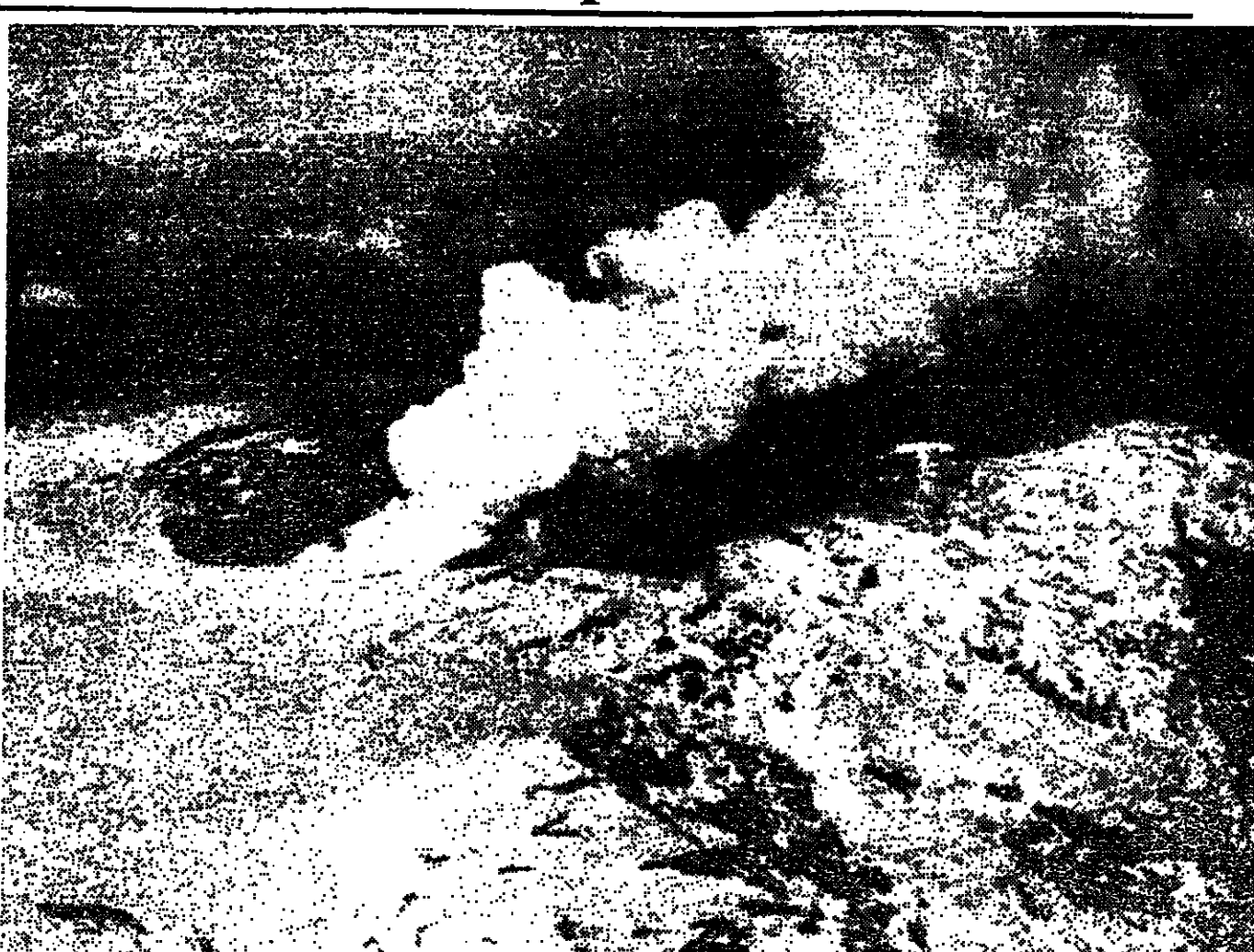
President Belisario Betancur flew to the disaster zone. It was the second major national crisis he had faced in a week. Last Thursday he ordered government troops to storm the besieged Palace of Justice in Bogotá, where guerrillas of the April 19 Movement (M-19) were holding members of the Supreme Court hostage. The action ended in a bloodbath in which 95 people were killed.

The eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz was not entirely unexpected (Colin Harding writes). In mid-September the Civil Aviation Authority ordered aircraft to stop flying over the mountain of the quantities of ash it was spewing out.

On October 5 the inhabitants of Manizales, capital of the department of Caldas, to the north-west, woke up to find the city covered in a fine layer of volcanic ash. Two days later volcanologists warned that there was a danger of lava overflows from Nevado del Ruiz, but the Government decided that there was no immediate danger to the population and took no steps to begin evacuation. A warning was issued, however, that winter sports enthusiasts should stay away from the mountains for the time being.

In spite of official reassurances, some panic selling of houses and farms began in the region around the volcano, which is one of Colombia's main coffee producing areas.

It is a densely-populated, intensively-cultivated area, with



Ash being hurled from the volcano Nevado del Ruiz in August last year.

## Miners' union purges contempt

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

The National Union of Mineworkers yesterday secured an end to the sequestration order imposed upon it 12 months ago for contempt of court after submitting a written apology sworn by Mr Arthur Scargill and the union's two other national officials.

Mr Justice Nicholls' decision to lift the sequestration order, means the NUM leaders have crossed the first hurdle towards recovery of the £10.3m in assets currently held by officers of the courts.

They will not resume control of the funds however until an end to the sequestration order which was imposed last December by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies and which remains in force for the foreseeable future. Counsel for Mr Michael Arnold, the Receiver, told the court yesterday that even with co-operation from the NUM leadership it might be "several months" before he would be able to give a report on the NUM's financial affairs and accounts for 1984 and 1985.

The end to the year-long saga which began with the NUM's defiance of an injunction granted by Mr Justice Nicholls restraining the union from calling the miners' strike official came in the packed court-room after a 9am pre-hearing meeting of the union's full executive at the TUC's headquarters. The executive agreed to submit a formal letter promising for the first time full co-operation with the Receiver, and the same time agreed to an unexpected proposal by Mr Scargill that they should turn up in force to the court. Mr Scargill, who sat throughout the hearing on the front bench flanked by Mr Peter Heathfield the union's national secretary and Mr Mick McGahey the union's vice president, was not called to testify. Mr Scargill's only comment on leaving the court was to say that "the receivership was a major problem for the union".

In his judgement Mr Justice Nicholls said: "It cannot be stated too often that it is essential for all who live in this country that the law should be upheld." For the law to extend protection and assistance to those who need it "it must extend its authority over everyone, however powerful he is or the organisation he represents, whether Government department, local authority, large corporation or trade union." The judge added: "The more powerful the organisation, the more willful the defiance of the court, the more important it is that the law should be seen to be upheld."

The judge said that the affidavit sworn by the union's three national officials was

Continued on back page, col 8

## Ulster accord clears final hurdle

From Richard Ford, Belfast

between the security forces of the two countries.

The deal, which will be lodged at the United Nations, will say there can be no change in the position of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom without the consent of the majority, but there will be "phased" reforms aimed at a structure and administration in the province which reflects both the majority and minority communities.

The accord will not be implemented until it has been ratified by the Commons and Dail. It is expected to have strong all-party support at Westminster and in the Republic. There are signs that the opposition Fianna Fail party is moderating its stance.

Those involved privately concede that it is a great gamble, but the two Prime Ministers have developed a mutual respect and have decided the risk is worth taking.

Unionist leaders have prepared for their own "alternative" summit at Stormont today to outline their reaction to the proposals. They believe the accord will infringe sovereignty and is part of a long-term plot to bring about a united Ireland.

They launched their opposition yesterday when Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionists put aside their rivalry to announce that of Dublin was given any role in the province (they would refuse to deal with Northern Ireland Office ministers. Mr Paisley threatened to "bust" any agreement, saying that Dublin's policy was a "sure recipe for war".

The British Government is braced for outrage from Unionist leaders, challenges in the courts and even walk-outs from local authorities and statutory bodies. Unionist leaders are seeking to oppose any deal constitutionally, while saying that if they fail paramilitaries might take over. One tactic being considered is for them to resign their Westminster seats to create by-elections where "loyalists" could demonstrate their feelings.

Plans have been made to deal swiftly with any "loyalist" attempt to disrupt the province and senior officials appear confident that they can keep control on the street.

Parliament, page 4  
Road to Summit, page 5  
Letters, page 15

## Betrayal and treachery claims shock Commons

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Without waiting for confirmation today of the terms of the Anglo-Irish agreement, the House of Commons yesterday made its feelings plain.

There was anger on the Ulster Unionist benches, opposition from a few Conservatives, but overwhelming support for the Prime Minister and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Harvey Proctor, Conservative MP for Billerica, said the police reservist shot in the previous 24 hours was the first victim of the Anglo-Irish process, which could be summed up in the single word "betrayal".

Mr King turned on Mr Proctor, saying the comment was disgraceful and without justification.

Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for South Down, whom Mrs Margaret Thatcher respects and is sometimes said to fear, minced no words: "Does the Prime Minister understand - if she does not yet understand, she soon will - that the penalty for treachery is to fall into public contempt?"

Mrs Thatcher could not have been cooler: "I think he will understand that I find his remarks deeply offensive," she replied.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, supported the Prime Minister. He told her that talk of treachery was inflammatory, irresponsible and should have no place in "this democratic assembly".

## Yurchenko tells of CIA drug 'ordeal'

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The relentless anti-American propaganda campaign mounted by the Soviet Union in advance of the Geneva summit reached a bizarre climax here yesterday before more than 500 journalists invited to hear fresh allegations by Mr Vitaly Yurchenko, the on-off defector who claims he was kidnapped by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The skillfully stage-managed press conference - one of the longest and largest in Moscow in recent years - was designed to brand the US as a perpetrator of "state terrorism" which flouted international conventions while lecturing the Eastern Bloc on the need to recognize human rights.

The presence of a Soviet doctor and legal expert behind the battery of microphones quickly confirmed the suspicions of Western observers that the media event had been staged to try to cause maximum embarrassment to President Reagan before his meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev next week.

Combined with the recent stepping-up of articles, speeches and broadcasts attacking the whole range of US policy, one intention appeared to be to raise superpower tension on the eve of the summit. The violence and unrelenting nature of the anti-US campaign has taken some American observers by surprise.

Yesterday's anti-American atmosphere was accentuated by the applause from Soviet journalists for the performance of the nervous-looking Mr Yurchenko, and accusations that Western reporters who

## Shultz more hopeful of summit results

From Michael Binyon, Washington

On the eve of President Reagan's departure for the Geneva summit, Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, yesterday said it was possible though not probable that new guidelines for the arms negotiators would emerge. But after the summit important differences would still remain.

In a cautiously optimistic final assessment, he said both President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev had prepared themselves thoroughly for their meeting, would vigorously defend their countries' interests and would discuss how to continue their dialogue later.

Mr Shultz put the chances for an agreement on arms guidelines as between one-in-five and two-in-five. But on bilateral issues, such as renewing air links and cultural exchanges, the chance for success was about 95 per cent.

Denying that the Administration had fading hopes and was now trying to lower expectations of the meeting, he added: "What has happened is a quickening in the pace of negotiations as far as the nuclear and space talks are concerned... I don't see less hope. I think there's more taking place. My basic rule is you don't have an agreement until you've got an agreement and you're nowhere near that point at this stage."

He was not dismayed by Soviet efforts to convince Western opinion, saying that once propaganda was removed from the language, it was a good thing to appeal to people's common sense. The US did not feel defensive about its positions.

**FOLLOW-UP SUMMIT:** Mr Shultz yesterday sought to reassure America's main allies that although the Reagan Administration did not expect any breakthroughs in Geneva it was hopeful the meeting would lead to a better understanding between the superpowers.

Speaking in a televised satellite link-up with journalists in five countries he also made it clear the US hoped the meeting would produce agreement to hold a follow-up summit and other high-level meetings between American and Soviet officials.

Stubborn Gorbachev, page 9

## Thatcher's five-year crusade

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has given herself another five years to stamp out socialism in Britain before she retires at the age of 65.

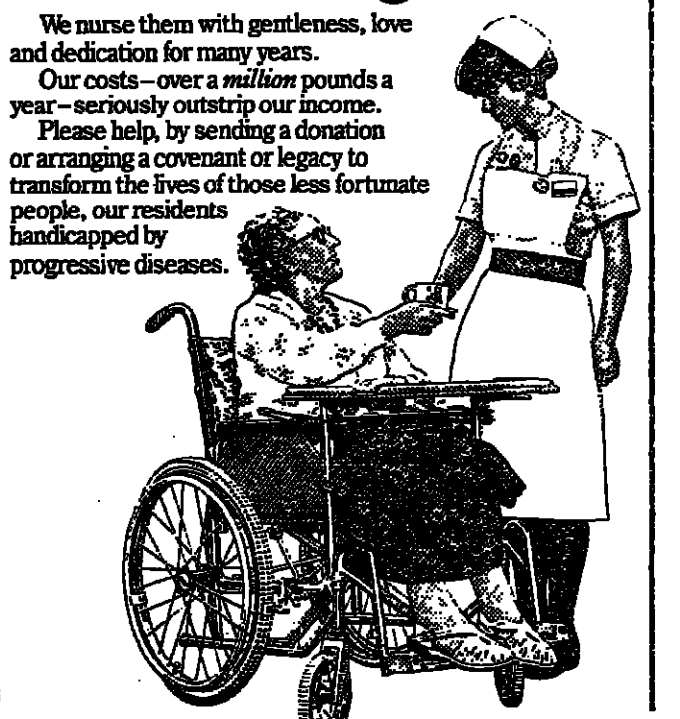
The Prime Minister's five-year plan was revealed in an interview with the *Financial Times*, in which she said that she would not be satisfied until there were two anti-socialist parties "in fundamental keeping with the character of Britain".

She said: "That is part of my role and I will not be satisfied until I have done it. I am only six and a half years in, but give me another five and we might have entrenched it. I have not entrenched it yet."

She gave her first firm indication of her retirement plans when she added: "In another five years I would have been in 11½ years, then someone else will carry the torch..."

It was assumed at Westminster yesterday that Mrs Thatcher was basing her plans on winning a third term of office. Defeat or a hung Parliament would force an earlier departure.

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## £30.6m more for arts despite criticism by lobbyists

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The arts was a substantial increase in income from the Government yesterday. The annual round of grant awards was not as punitive as many recipients expected but still fell far short of what was being demanded by the arts lobby.

The Arts Council will be given £235.6 million next year, a £30.6 million rise.

Mr Richard Luce, fighting his first battle with the Treasury as Minister for the Arts, was said to have worked vigorously to secure a reasonable settlement at a time when he was hampered by some of the lobbying activities of the arts world.

Members of the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, had objected to the outspoken criticism of the Government voiced earlier this year by Sir Peter Hall, the director of the National Theatre, and regarded the Arts Council's demands for grants totalling £161 million as "utterly unreasonable".

The settlement for the Arts Council goes part of the way to meeting its demands for extra money after the abolition of the metropolitan county council's arts contributions. The Government's previous offer was raised from £16 million to £25 million, £10 million less than the council had said was necessary to safeguard companies in the areas affected by abolition.

But a number of companies seem certain to receive increases next year which do not meet the level of inflation. Sir William Rees-Mogg, the council's chairman, said that he was disappointed by the settlement but believed that the overall figure was a substantial increase on the £122 million originally expected.

The minister had recognized the need for the council's regional development strategy and its new responsibilities, which include the South Bank.

An extra £4.6 million is to be given, mainly towards extending the council's "Glory of the Garden" strategy of shifting arts resources from London to the regions.

High Commission apology to NUM today

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Funny peculiar Joke-by-joke guide to alternative comedians

Cruising Suez Heat-hazy days in Egypt and Israel

Fair winds? David Miller from Perth on Britain's America's Cup chances

Family Money Finding the best investment for capital growth

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £4,000 (double the usual amount because no one won on Wednesday) was won by Mr Brian Adams of Bicknacre, Essex. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, Information Service, back page.

Readers requiring a Portfolio card are asked to write to: The Times Portfolio, P.O. Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Cold pushes up N Sea oil prices

North Sea oil prices moved above \$30 a barrel for the first time since June last year, raising fears of higher petrol and heating fuel prices. The cold weather was blamed for the rise.

Concorde drama

Passengers were evacuated from a British Airways Concorde from New York last night by emergency chutes after a tyre burst at Heathrow Airport.

Baker plea

Big changes are needed in the international monetary system, Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, says in an exclusive interview with *The Times*. Details, page 21; interview, page 26.

Good to see that not everyone is on the fiddle these days.

Stradivari flop

Three Stradivari violins and one cello failed to find buyers at Sotheby's in London. Page 2

FA crackdown

The Football Association restricted Millwall's home matches to home supporters only and banned Leeds United supporters from away fixtures. Page 28

SPECIAL REPORT

Business computer manufacturers - moving back into profit after a pause in their progress - are looking at the next stage in the industry's development. Pages 17-19

Law results

The Law Society's 1985 final examination results. Page 29

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## Better protection sought for residents of privately-owned flats

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A government-appointed committee yesterday recommended sweeping changes in the law to give greater protection to residents of privately-owned blocks of flats.

They include the right to appoint a receiver and manager if a landlord or his managing agent neglects the property or fails to carry out necessary work; the introduction of a "housing assessor" on the lines of the small claims procedure to sort out speedily and cheaply disputes between landlords and tenants; and the right of first refusal for residents to give them the opportunity to buy the block if the landlord wishes to sell.

Although welcoming the proposals, the Federation of Private Residents' Associations yesterday criticized the report for not going "nearly far enough". It called for residents to have the right to appoint managing agents and to have the right to extend their leases

and purchase the freehold of the building in which they live.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Edward Nugee, QC, was set up in February 1984 to examine the difficulties for landlords and tenants arising from the management of privately-owned blocks of flats. It came after increasing concern about the management of the blocks, in which nearly 500,000 people live, particularly in London and the South-east, and largely as a result of high service charges and neglect of the buildings by landlords.

The report identifies the main areas of difficulty as problems concerning maintenance, service charges, consultation over works, the difficulty of identifying the landlord, inadequate leases and lack of management expertise.

As existing buildings age and new developments continue to be marketed, problems are more likely to grow rather than diminish with the passage

of time unless steps are taken to deal with them," the report says.

The committee, which included representatives of both residents and landlords and agents, has unanimously put forward 53 recommendations, the main ones requiring legislation, and Mr Nugee said he hoped that the Government would act on them.

The measures, designed to redress the balance for tenants who find that their landlord or managing agent is persistently unresponsive or unhelpful, include a requirement that landlords should have an address in England and Wales at which the residents can communicate with them.

Report of the committee of inquiry on the management of privately-owned blocks of flats. (Department of the Environment, publication sales unit, building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex HA 022; £3.75).

Housing in decay, page 4

## Peacock poll backs advertising on BBC

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Public support for advertising on the BBC has been confirmed in a poll conducted for the Peacock committee, which is examining the corporation's funding.

The committee's research, based on a NOP poll of 2,000 people commissioned in the first fortnight of October, disclosed that 62 per cent support the placement of the licence by commercials, while 31 per cent were opposed.

The findings supports other polls which showed little public support for the argument that commercials on both BBC and ITV would destroy the quality of television.

The committee, which is due to report next summer, released the NOP poll yesterday as part of a policy of making public the findings of its research.

A chairman's note with the survey said: "It took detailed advice on the design of the questionnaire and the results improve our knowledge of the public's perception of the problems of broadcasting finance."

The committee will welcome commentary on the results and will itself be making a careful analysis of them before its public meeting on November 28.

The survey disclosed that 52 per cent of those interviewed do not believe that advertising would change the quality of BBC programmes. A total of 17 per cent thought that the quality

## GPs blamed for cervical cancer rise

By Thomas Prentice

Family doctors are partly to blame for the unnecessary deaths of up to 2,000 women a year from cervical cancer, a leading campaigner for preventive medicine said yesterday.

Apathy among some general practitioners towards smear tests has been a contributory factor in the death toll from a disease that can be successfully treated, Dr Ann McPherson said.

"At least 1,000 lives could be saved every year if the screening service were efficient. The one group of people who can really achieve that are GPs," she said.

Dr McPherson, an Oxford GP, was speaking at the launch of her book, which is published today in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Although family doctors have been the biggest group taking smear tests in the past 10 years, some carry out the test on only one patient each week instead of giving about five patients the test, she said.

Part of the problem was the "muddled" guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Social Security. Lack of department funding for the computerized recall of patients was another concern.

In spite of three million smear tests a year, most of the 2,000 women who die annually from cervical cancer have never been tested, Dr McPherson said.

Dr Jack Cuzick, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said: "The Government is spending £30 million a year on cervical cancer screening but the programme has never been properly evaluated." He is leading a study into the incidence of the disease among women of differing ages.

Dr Colin Waite, of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said: "The quality of care delivered by some GPs in this area is not acceptable."

Cervical Screening: A practical guide by Dr Ann McPherson. Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP. £1.95.

## GPs preferred to clinics

Most Women seeking contraceptive advice go to their family doctor, preferring the familiar setting of the surgery and the personal attention of the doctor to a visit to a clinic, according to a new study.

But clinics provide an alternative for women reluctant to discuss sexual matters and contraceptive needs with a doctor, and give them a greater degree of anonymity.

"This may be particularly important in the case of young women who have just commenced sexual activity," the study's author, Dr Robert Snowden, says. She is director of the Institute of Population Studies at Exeter University.

The pill is prescribed by GPs to 84 per cent of all patients seeking family planning help. Consumer choice in family planning (by Dr Robert Snowden), 27-35 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ. £2.50, post free.

## Stradivari violins fail to sell

By Geraldine Norman

Sotheby's new auction on salesmanship flopped yesterday when three Stradivari violins and one cello were offered for sale at estimated prices beyond recent market levels and no takers came forward.

The "Lady Blunt" violin made by Stradivari in Cremona in 1721 was left unsold at £820,000. There was a genuine bid at £800,000, however, and Sotheby's were already in negotiation over a private sale yesterday afternoon.

Since 1971 prices for Stradivari violins have soared. At the sale five lots topped the £1 million mark, including a Matisse La Blouse Bleue of 1936 which sold for £1,430,000.

Matisse photograph, page 16

## Directors' pay rises by 11.1%

By Teresa Poole

The average United Kingdom executive director earns £25,000, drives a Rover, and is 46 years old. Managing directors do rather better with an average total pay of £31,000, and a preference for Jaguars, and executive chairmen have a total remuneration of £35,000.

The average rise in total earnings in 1985 was 11.1 per cent, but the lifestyles of the men who run British industry are such that even that was not enough to keep up with the increase in their cost of living.

According to a survey of 5,569 members of the Institute of Directors, a director with a seven room detached house on a mortgage, who eats 184 meals out a year, is a member of a golf club and pays day-school fees needs a family income of £36,635. In 1985 he is said to have had a 12.6 per head increase in the cost of living.

Much of that increase be-

cause of the higher level of mortgage repayments earlier this year.

In different industries, oil and gas companies directors come top with £35,000 followed by financial services with £30,000. Directors in hotels and catering come off worst with a £12,000 average.

The company car remains an important status symbol. Chairmen prefer Jaguars and Mer-

cedes, managing directors Jaguars or BMWs most often, while other directors generally choose a Rover or a Granada. Another common perk is the private health scheme which is taken by 78 per cent of directors.

About two-thirds of chief executives and directors are on some sort of incentive pay scheme. For a managing director bonuses are worth on average between £6,000 and £10,000, depending on the size of the company.

The survey forecasts pay rises for directors of between 3 per cent and 9 per cent next year, comfortably ahead of inflation. More than a third of companies were optimistic about taking on new staff, with the greatest expansion planned for sales and marketing departments.

Directors' rewards, 1985-1986, Institute of Directors/Reward House, 1 Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8BA.

Average directors' rewards			
	Executive chairman	Managing director	Executive director
Age	50	47	46
Basic pay	£37,500	£28,000	£22,700
Total pay	£56,000	£31,000	£25,000
Basic pay rise (%)	10	9.1	8.1
Size of company			
Director (1M)	4	59	125
Company car	Jaguar	Jaguar	BMW
	3,500cc	3,500cc	2,400cc

Source: Directors' Rewards 1985-1986, Institute of Directors/Reward House.



Charlie Watts ready for rehearsals at Ronnie Scott's Club in London yesterday (Photograph: Dod Miller).

## A Stone changes tempo

"The only way I could get to play at this club was to buy it," Charlie Watts, the Rolling Stones drummer, joked, referring to the cost of hiring 30 musicians to fulfil his "childhood dream" of leading a big jazz band at Ronnie Scott's Club (Richard Williams writes).

Pale and unshaven, but with a mischievous smile on his usually saturnine features, Watts, aged 44, surveyed his orchestra rehearsing for his world debut at the Soho club, where it will begin a week of performances next Monday.

He has played in most of the world's leading concert halls and stadiums during his 23-year career with the Stones, but never on the hallowed ground of Scott's, which celebrated its silver jubilee last year.

Watts has exercised his *droit de seigneur* by selecting musicians from the cream of the British jazz community, veterans and youngsters, and by choosing the music.

Instead of "Jumping Jack Flash", his favourites include "I Love Paris" and "Stompin' at the Savoy".

## Father in 'ball of wool' case blames wife

By Craig Seton

Birmingham Crown Court yesterday heard the father accused of murdering his daughter, aged 22 months, accuse his wife, Yvonne, of stuffing a ball of wool into the child's mouth and gagging her with a scarf shortly before she died. He told the court he had loved the girl.

Philip Hartwell, aged 30, unemployed of Waterworks Road, Birmingham, has denied murdering his daughter, Gemma Louise, in March this year and cruelty to her. She died of asphyxia 16 days after being returned home by social workers "on trial". She had been in council care since birth.

He said that on the morning of March 23 he went into the bedroom and found the child kneeling at her cot with something tied round her head and knotted at the back. He had untied it but baby had not moved. He had picked her up but she stumbled and hit her head on a cot. When he turned her over he saw she had some blue wool hanging from her mouth. He got it out with difficulty but she was not breathing.

Mr Hartwell denied ever intending to harm the child or striking her with a walking stick.

The trial continues.

## Customers attack professions on fee advertising

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors, dentists, opticians and lawyers were yesterday accused of using their professional rules to protect themselves, rather than their customers.

Commenting on the fight by dentists and solicitors against professional advertising, Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said: "With people having to pay pounds for even the smallest bit of dental work under the NHS, and jaw-dropping prices for private work, the pressure is on dentists to show the quality of the service they provide and that their prices are justified."

"Most people would probably like to be able to shop around and compare prices for a new crown or new set of false teeth. It is in dentists' own interests. Research by the council has found that some people are reluctant to go to the dentist for fear of what it will cost. They just don't know what they will have to pay."

Mr Montague described a decision by the General Dental Council to allow dentists to advertise a price for an initial consultation to determine the cost of private treatment as "eccentric". On the eve of a speech to the Scottish Consumer Council Mr Montague said doctors, lawyers and

opticians also had "anti-consumer practices".

The ban on advertising by doctors meant patients did not know who were willing to take new patients, and what services and facilities they offered. While some opticians "per-verse" refuse to use their freedom to price spectacles on display.

In Scotland it was now easier to challenge the actions of public authorities in the courts. But anyone wanting to do so had to hire up to four lawyers, while differing restrictions on which media solicitors could use to advertise in Scotland and England were "just foolish nonsense".

Consumers were the patrons of professionals and did not want to be patronized by them. Mr Montague said the professions genuinely believed their practices were in the public interest and self-regulation still had much to offer. "But today when people are better educated and have a clear idea of what they want, it is time for the professions to think again about their relationship with their customers."

The British Dental Association yesterday backed the decision of the General Dental Council, the dentist's disciplinary body, to oppose price advertising by dentists.

## Marques sea laws conspiracy denied

The owner of the Marques, the three-masted square rigger that sank off Bermuda last year, yesterday denied involvement in any conspiracy to bypass Department of Transport regulations covering seaworthiness.

Mr Mark Litchfield, aged 42, was giving evidence at the inquiry in Plymouth into the disaster in which 19 people died during the tall ship's race.

The inquiry has been told that a vital document of seaworthiness, known as a loadline exemption certificate, was granted in 1983 against the department's normal code of practice.

Mr Litchfield, of Boxley, Kent, was asked about a letter sent to him earlier that year by his own surveyor, Mr John Perryman, of Corleston, Norfolk.

Part of the letter read: "I still can't believe our luck and I just wonder how many others have tried it without success. I did get the impression that the DOT surveyors were a bit short on wood ship experience."

Questioned by Mr John Reeder, for the Department of Transport, Mr Litchfield said although the letter could be interpreted as indicating connivance there was no conspiracy to get round department regulations.

The inquiry was adjourned until today.

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## The search for a solution conducted in discreet restaurants and bars in London and Dublin

## Road to summit took five years of diplomacy behind the scenes

Reports by Richard Ford

The long road to the Anglo-Irish summit began five years ago at 40 Downing Street, when Dr Garret FitzGerald's arrival launched his attempt for a place in history with "silver tongue" diplomacy.

With that personal gift of a Georgian leopold and personal Satyr, Charles Haughey, exuded Celtic charm attempting to persuade Mrs Thatcher that the way into history books was solving an age-old problem, rather than knocking a few digits off the inflation rate.

While Dr FitzGerald did not dispute his predecessor, a diplomatic offensive took place in discreet restaurants and bars in London and Northern Ireland, as leading members of the British establishment were won and dined in a concerted effort to persuade them that the time was right for a new approach to Northern Ireland.

Mrs Thatcher had been sufficiently persuaded by Mr Haughey to arrive in Dublin with the most high-powered British delegation since partition to institute the process that culminated in yesterday's summit. But it was to end in tears just a few months later with Mr Haughey overruling what had been agreed, with heavy hints that the constitutional position of the North was up for negotiation, and Mrs Thatcher refusing to listen to his appeals to move to end the Maze hunger strikes.

Mr Haughey blames an intransigent Mrs Thatcher for his loss of power in the general election of 1981, when two hunger strikers won border seats robbing him of an overall majority. For Ireland, that hunger strike was crucial. Before it began, Mr Danny Morrison, a Provisional Sinn Féin leader, uttered the words

## FALL IN TERRORISM

Year	Terrorist incidents	Troop levels
1969	8	6,167
1970	59	11,537
1971	5,721	11,822
1972	12,481	21,200
1973	6,238	16,614
1974	4,589	15,401
1975	2,498	14,201
1976	3,336	14,206
1977	2,224	14,286
1978	1,533	15,452
1979	1,282	15,286
1980	1,044	12,141
1981	1,720	11,038
1982	516	10,538
1983	834	8,882
1984	582	9,090

what summed up the Provisionals' approach when he talked of taking power with an "Armistice in one hand, and ballot box in the other": while the deaths of 10 men in the Maze gave Sinn Féin an emotional support in northern Catholic ghettos which they could exploit.

In 1981, Dr FitzGerald, heading a brief minority government, met Mrs Thatcher at Chequers insisting on a "step-by-step approach". But after his government fell in 1982, to be replaced by a Haughey administration, Mr James Prior's Revolution initiative was dismissed as irrelevant in Dublin, while Ireland's stand on EEC sanctions against Argentina during the Falklands conflict brought Anglo-Irish relations to an all-time low.

In the October 1982 elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly, Sinn Féin, with 10 per cent of the vote, sent shockwaves the political establishment north and south of the border, leaving Mr Prior to admit, plaintively, that almost everything in the province was a setback.

It left the Social Democratic and Labour Party in an unenviable position. It was no longer the only voice represent-

## Deceptive style of a leader

When earlier this year Dr Garret FitzGerald poured salt rather than sugar into a cup of tea while out campaigning for local elections, it brought guffaws of laughter from his opponents.

Coming so soon after his confession that while picking holly last Christmas he lost not one but two pairs of spectacles, it confirmed once again the image of an absent-minded professor.

The mop of frequently untidy, wiry grey hair, the scholarly glasses, rapid-fire speech and the love of the statistics that cascade from his lips almost as soon as he opens his mouth, reinforce the image. But that intellectual aura has also been coupled with the portrayal of a decent, honest and caring man with a refreshing lack of pomposity.

It is a picture British people have become accustomed to through his frequent television appearances. Often they have been after Provisional IRA terrorist attacks in Britain and Dr FitzGerald has been quick to respond. His appearances have had two aims: to prevent any anti-Irish backlash in English cities and to dispel the myth that Irish governments offer tacit support to the Provisionals. He has had success on both counts.

Dr FitzGerald's personality and moderate image is much feared by unionists who find it difficult to counter. But his nationalist credentials are impeccable. His father, a southern revolutionary Roman Catholic poet, and mother, a middle-class northern Presbyterian were both in the GPO in Dublin on the morning of the 1916 rising. He had a comfortable middle-class upbringing and his father was a minister in the first Free State government. FitzGerald took a first in history and French at University College, Dublin, before



Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald at the EEC summit in Dublin last December.

embarking on separate careers as an Aer Lingus executive, a college lecturer and a freelance journalist, he was Dublin correspondent for the *Financial Times*, *Economist* and the *BBC*. He did not enter politics until 1965 when he was aged 39 and did so to aid social reform and to do something about the North. He wanted to "change the attitude of all parties on Northern Ireland - irredentist, unthinking and governed by myth".

His rise was swift. Elected a Fine Gael deputy in 1969, Dr FitzGerald was drawn to the party's liberal wing and by 1973 was minister for foreign affairs in a coalition government.

He earned himself an international reputation, seeing the advantages of European and United States support for any Irish initiative on the North, and was immersed in the negotiations leading to the

Sunningdale agreement which set up the ill-fated power-sharing executive.

By 1977 he was the party leader and reorganized it with some ruthlessness to challenge the dominance of Fianna Fáil, giving it a distinctive social-democratic tinge. By the 1982 election, the party had its highest number of seats in both houses of parliament, although it still relied on the Labour Party to form a coalition government.

## The men behind the deal

British negotiators

Sir Robert Armstrong: 58, Cabinet Secretary, a powerful influence for agreement. Educated Eton, Christ Church, Oxford, a veteran of the Sunningdale agreement in 1973/74.

David Goodall: 54, deputy under secretary of state, Foreign Office. Educated Ampleforth, Trinit College, Oxford.

Sir Alan Goodison: 58, British Ambassador, Dublin. Educated Colles Grammar School, Trinity College, Cambridge. First class degree, modern and medieval languages.

Chris Mallahy: 49, educated Eton, King's College Cambridge.

Irish negotiators

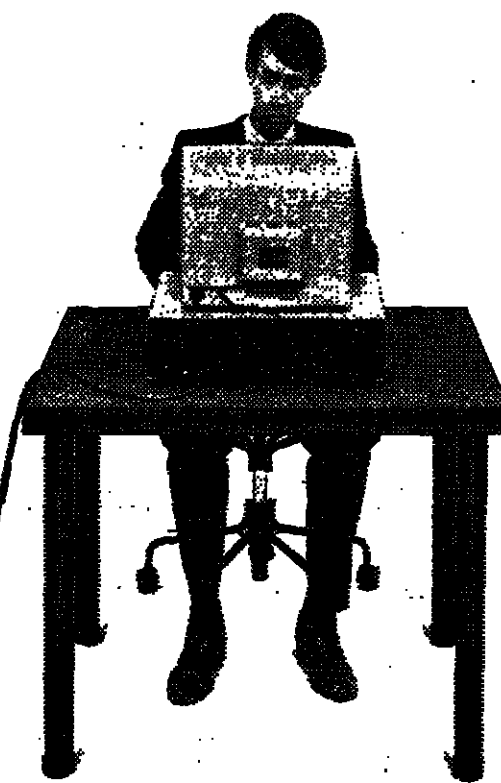
Dermot Nally: 58, secretary to the government. Educated Synge Street Christian Brothers School, Dublin, London University.

Sean Donlon: 45, Youngest secretary of the department of foreign affairs. Former Ambassador to Washington. Veteran of Sunningdale. Educated Maynooth College, University College, Dublin.

Michael Lillis: 40, Head of the Anglo-Irish section, the department of foreign affairs. Fluent Irish speaker, with a first class degree in Celtic studies.

Noel Dorr: 52, Irish Ambassador, London. Educated University College, Galway; Georgetown University, Washington.

## A man working by himself.



## A man working with 35 other people.



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## Long history of violence and intimidation

1921: Anglo-Irish Treaty partitions Ireland. Irish Free State set up with separate government in six northern counties, where Unionists rule until 1972.

1925: Irish Free State government confirms border.

1931: IRA declared illegal in South.

1939: Brief IRA bombing campaign in UK.

1939/45: South neutral in Second World War.

1949: South becomes full republic.

1956/62: IRA border campaign.

1968: Civil rights marches in North end in violence.

1968: October: Unionist government offers reforms.

1969: British Army in Londonderry and Belfast after widespread violence. Westminster pressure for reform. RUC reorganized. B Specials disbanded.

1971: Internment without trial. Provisional IRA grows in strength.

1972: Edward Heath suspends Stormont, imposes direct Westminster rule.

1972: July: Darrington conference on future political options.

1973: March: White Paper proposes assembly elected by proportional representation.

1973: July: 78-member assembly elected.

1973: November: Stormont agreement on power-sharing in North.

1973: December: Sunningdale conference agreement on British, Irish and Northern Irish power-sharing executive.

1974: January: Executive takes office.

1974: May: Executive collapses as Ulster strike paralyses province. Direct rule reimposed.

1975/6: Constitutional convention. Local parties fail to agree on government with widespread acceptance.

1977: May: Second "loyalist" workers' strike fails.

1980: January: Constitutional conference fails.

1980: December: Haughey-Thatcher summit agrees "joint studies" on range of topics.

1982: Prior unveils rolling devolution plan.

1982: October: 78-member Northern Ireland Assembly elected. Boycotted by SDLP.

1983: New Ireland Forum set up in Dublin.

1984: May: New Ireland Forum report suggests a unitary state, confederation, and joint authority.

1984: November: Thatcher rejects all three options. Talks continue.



# European Camera of the Year 1985.



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50 mm	f1.7 0.45 m to infinity	0.60 sec
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### Perfect Exposure.

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But Program itself has three modes! "Standard", "Wide" and

"Telephoto". Sensors in each new AF lens tell the camera what it is. So when the camera's on Program and you put, say, the 50 mm lens in, the camera chooses shutter and aperture combinations best for point-and-shoot photography.

Put in a 28 mm or a 24 mm and Program changes to select the smallest possible aperture for the greatest depth of focus in front of and behind the main subject.

With long lenses, the "Tele" part of Program selects the fastest possible shutter speed to cut out telephoto blur from camera shake.

And, cleverest of all, with a zoom lens, the Minolta 7000 will change through all three programs as the focal length of the zoom changes from wide to telephoto!

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## Opposition MPs win poll delay in meeting with Marcos men

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The snap presidential election in the Philippines has been postponed from January 17 to a date no later than the first week of February, the state-run news agency said yesterday.

The Political Affairs Minister, Mr. Leonardo Perez, announced the change after a second day of talks with opposition leaders, who had questioned the constitutionality of the snap poll announced on Monday by President Marcos.

The original date was "too tight and too close", Mr. Perez said after he and four Government MPs met five opposition colleagues in a private 90-minute meeting.

He said the election date was being set back to give opposition parties more time for campaigning. A presidential campaign period can last 60 days, but Mr. Marcos had set a 45-day limit, which opposition groups denounced as too short.

Although a Cabinet Bill calling for the election was submitted on Monday to the law revision committee, the private negotiations have delayed formal debate on it until next Monday.

The two negotiating teams have been thrashing out a possible deal which would allow President Marcos to remain in office during the campaign. His current six-year term does not end until 1987.

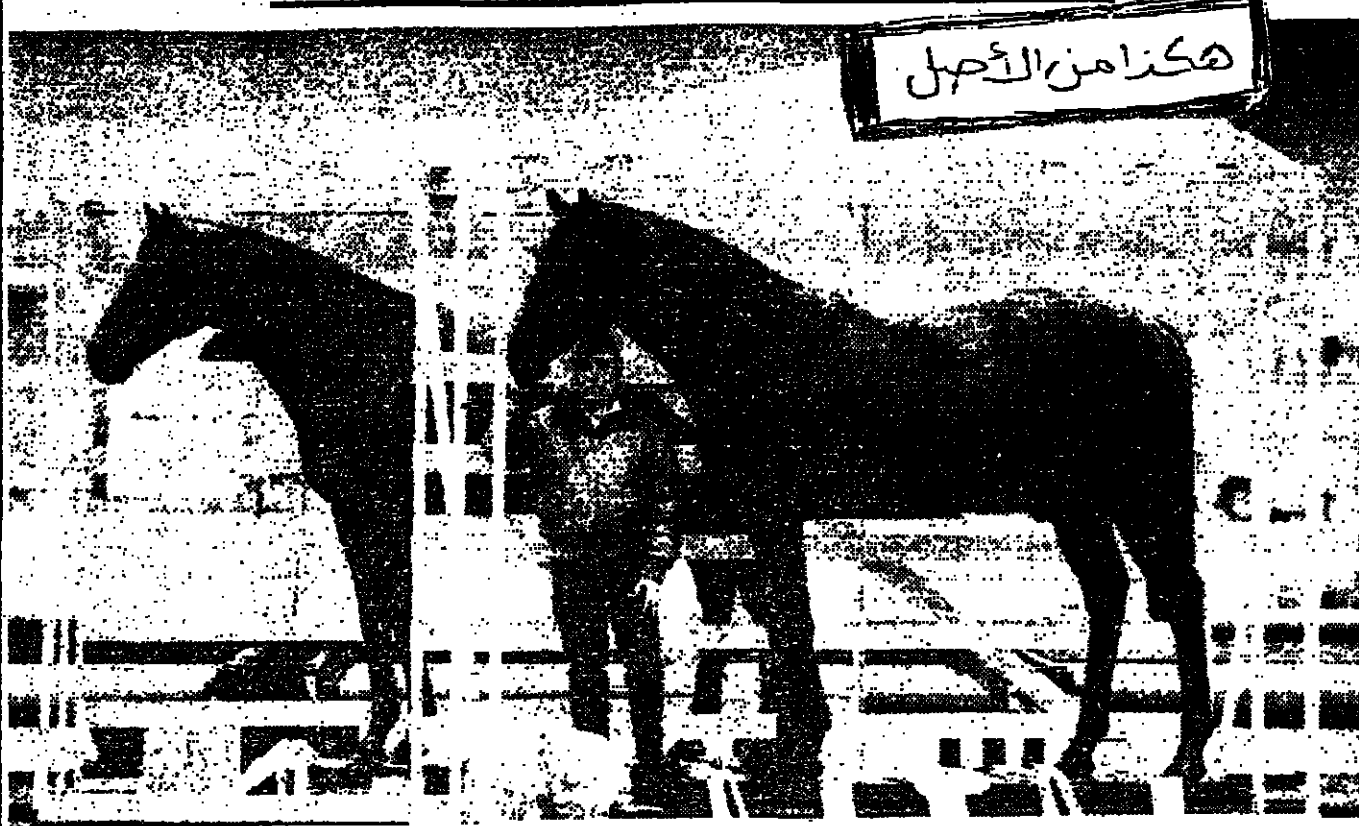
A constitutional amendment is under discussion which would allow the President to call a snap election on matters of "fundamental concern" affecting government.

At present the constitution allows such a poll only on the death, resignation, incapacity or impeachment of the President.

The constitutionality of a post-dated resignation letter which Mr. Marcos issued on Monday to apply only after the election, has been widely questioned. The proposed amendment would allow him to remain in office in the meantime.

"It's a trade-off, pure and simple, an opposition MP, Mr. Homobono Adaza, said yesterday. In return for its support, the Opposition had given a list of 12 demands to the government team, including the repeal of the President's decree-making powers and his authority to dissolve Parliament, a reorganization of the state-run Commission on Elections and postponement of the presidential poll to coincide with local government elections in May.

## Large as life and twice as natural



The New York sculptor, Rhonda Roland Shearer, at Kennedy Airport with her life-size statues of the European champion sire Be My Guest which were being flown to the Irish Republic.

## Triple coup for French drugs police

From Susan Macdonald Paris

The French police, with the help of European, American and Tunisian colleagues, have smashed three international drug operations in the past few days: an illegal drug laboratory at Châtel-Saint-Denis in Switzerland; a Tunisian drug-trafficking ring at Marseille; and a Moroccan drug ring in Paris.

Altogether about 80 people are being interrogated.

Police seized 15 kilos of pure heroin, made from morphine base at the Swiss laboratory and also arrested members of the gang, both previously wanted in connection with their participation in the French Connection drug ring at the beginning of the 1970s.

Fifty-five Tunisians were arrested in Marseilles and these, together with the Moroccans in Paris, are said to constitute the middle men between the small drug sellers and the big Chinese dealers in Amsterdam, who control the European market.

French customs officials have decided next year to double the number of dogs used for drug detection.

## Athens shrugs off strike revolt

From Mario Mediano Athens

Greece's Socialist Government dismissed as a "resounding failure" yesterday's national strike staged by the anti-government majority of the divided labour movement to protest against its austerity programme.

But the strike organizer, an alliance of dissident Socialist and Communist Trade Unionists, claimed 80 per cent of the country's registered workforce of 1.8 million had supported the 24-hour strike. It was seen as the biggest challenge yet from the left to the policies of Mr. Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister.

The Labour Ministry's assertion that 80 per cent of Workers and Employees had, in fact, defied the strike call, was contradicted by the visible havoc in land, sea and air communications throughout the country, the idle banks, closed schools and theatres, and the hospitals and public utilities operating on skeleton staffs.

In central Athens, some 70,000 strikers held a rally and then marched to Parliament to demand the rescinding of the pay freeze decree. Traffic was chaotic as the Government lifted its pollution-control restrictions on private cars and moved in army lorries to make up for the absence of buses and taxis from streets.

Police were called after incidents at bus depots and railway stations, where strikers tried to stop strike-breakers from moving vehicles and trains.

Despite the revolt of its own left wing trade unionists and threats of follow-up strikes, the Government seemed determined to carry on with its strict austerity programme to rescue the debt-ridden economy from a price crisis. A fresh set of price increases announced yesterday will affect coffee, olive oil and parking fees.

## Work-to-rule delays Madrid flights

From Harry Debelius Madrid

Monday and Tuesday.

During the first day of the work-to-rule, an estimated 11,000 passengers were affected by flight cancellations. A spokesman for Iberia, the state-run airline, estimated that the company was losing more than 75 million pesetas (£330,000) a day as a result of the industrial action.

The protest, intended to reinforce controllers' demands for better equipment and a big pay rise, was scheduled to end at midnight last night. But if an agreement is not reached, air controllers' associations threaten a nation-wide strike next Monday and Tuesday.

The air controllers are demanding increases of up to 70 per cent of their present pay, while the Government is offering 11 per cent.

The Central Region Controllers' Association originally called for a strike on Wednesday and Thursday, but the requirement for them to provide minimum essential services during labour disputes turned what was to have been a stoppage into a go-slow.

From Chicago the threat of an international trade war looks rather different than it does from Washington or from Britain.

In Washington one gains the impression of immense pressure for trade protection building up across the United States, channelled through Congress but resisted with determination and ingenuity by the Administration. This resistance looks as if it will probably be successful - especially as the Bill restricting textile imports has now failed to gain the two-thirds majority required to override a presidential veto in both Houses of Congress - but not without a struggle.

This is the picture as it is usually seen in Britain, and it is the interpretation that I have myself accepted in the past. But as one moves west across the country one realizes that it is not quite so simple as that.

The pressure for trade protection in Chicago, the economic centre of the Mid West, is not significant. There are, it is true, parts of the Mid West where it is much stronger. In southern Illinois, for example, an area of farming with smaller pockets of industry, it is much more widely believed that unfair foreign competition is to be blamed for all their difficulties.

In places dependent upon single industries in trouble, like steel or motor manufacturing, the pressure for protection is every bit as strong as it appears in Washington. Trouble erupted only this week in Bethlehem, Indiana, over plans to import steel.

## Less pressure for protection

But Chicago is different, and far from unimportant. The big political story here this week has been the withdrawal of Mr. Neil Hartigan, the state Attorney General, from next year's race to be governor of Illinois. This will probably give former Senator Adlai Stevenson a clear run as the Democratic nominee, and will mean that the election itself, between the incumbent Governor James Thompson and Mr. Stevenson, will be between two men vying with each other as to which is the better proponent of international trade.

Both of them are opposed to protection, and both appear to see the future for the city and the state in terms of reaching out internationally for investment and for trade.

That seems to be the prevailing attitude in Chicago at the moment. A few days ago I was in Milwaukee, and there too I found the pressure for protection less than I had expected.

I do not draw the conclusion that it can be dismissed as a

## Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

national force. Had I been in a number of other places, around the country, I would have received a very different impression. Nor do I discount the risk that protectionism may emerge as a still more potent issue in mid-term elections.

But for the moment, I am encouraged that the pressure is less uniform than is widely assumed and that the Administration's chances of resistance should therefore be greater.

## More success than expected

Its strategy is to divert attention from protection by pursuing other means for making American industry more competitive. A lower dollar should serve that purpose at home and abroad.

The meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Five - the United States, Britain, West Germany, France and Japan - in New York in September has so far been more successful in bringing down the dollar than many people had expected.

The prospects for a new round of international trade talks beginning next year are better than they seemed after the failure of the Bonn economic summit in May.

In the meantime, the United States will be looking for bilateral and regional trading agreements wherever they are available. But the Administration's preference will be for multilateral negotiations if the European Community is willing.

All these stratagems have one thing in common. They are trying to reduce the United States' trading deficit by increasing the opportunities for American industry in foreign markets.

So long as there is hope that this approach will work, there is a reasonable chance that it will be preferred to further dangerous measures of protection, despite all the bluster.

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## Voter support drops for Ozal as left splinters in Turkey

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

The Turkish left, emerging as a serious threat to the Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, officially split once again yesterday, with the founding of the Democratic Left Party (DSP) by supporters of Mr Süleyman Demirel, the former leader of the Social Democrats banned from participating in politics until 1982.

The forming of the DSP came just 11 days after the emergence of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) through the merger of the main parliamentary opposition, the Populist Party, and its one-time strong rival, the Social Democratic Party (Sodep), which was barred from Parliament by the former military regime.

After the emergence of the DSP, Mrs Rahsan Ecevit, wife of the former Social Democratic leader and the "unofficial" chairwoman of the party, pointed out that more than 70 per cent of 612 official founders were made up of peasants, workers, shopkeepers and artists, in an attempt to back the party's claim to "grass-root support". She was not one of the founding members.

Together with other leaders of the new party, she has been turning down calls for unity by the SHP and its former factions

However, recent public opinion polls put the combined voter support of the DSP's rivals at 39.2 per cent. The polls also showed that the DSP would not be much of a threat to the SHP, since only 18 per cent of Social Democrats supported it.

But the polls seem to have alarmed the Government as the ruling Motherland Party was credited with only 30.1 per cent of voter support.

The sharp decline in electoral backing - down by a third in two years - was generally attributed to its admitted failure to curb inflation.

Among other worries of the Government is the resurfacing of Mr Necmettin Erbakan, the former fundamentalist leader, alongside Mr Ecevit and Mr Süleyman Demirel, the former Conservative Prime Minister.

**ELEVEN TO DIE:** A martial law court in Erzurum yesterday sentenced 11 leftists to death at the conclusion of one of the biggest mass trials held in Turkey (AP reports).

Strict security measures were in force around a sports hall where the court handed down sentences after a four-year trial of 877 people accused of membership of the left-wing guerrilla group Dev Yol (Revolutionary Road).

## Iran envoys red-faced over gaffe in Harare

From Jan Raath, Harare

Desperately embarrassed officials at the Iranian Embassy here have learnt one of the more basic rules of journalism: read over what you write.

A flurry of meetings at the top level of the Zimbabwe Foreign Ministry were called on Wednesday, reported an extraordinary gaffe committed in the latest issue of the embassy's newsletter. An article had described Mr Robert Mugabe, (the Prime Minister) and President Machel of Mozambique as "loud-mouthed puppets" of South Africa, and dismissed President Kaunda of Zambia as "a traitor to the African cause".

Later that day, the Second Secretary at the embassy, Mr Amir Elahi, hurriedly called a press conference to explain that the article had been chosen "by mistake" by an embassy official with a poor command of English.

He had thought the article, a reprint from a privately owned Iranian news magazine which dealt with South Africa and Namibia, would be pertinent to readers here.

The newsletter had been sent to about 60 government officials, Mr Elahi said. Zimbabwe Foreign Ministry officials at first strongly suspected that the abusive article had been knowingly circulated because the ministry did not appear to have been sent its regular copy.

It appears instead that lesser officials had thrown the regulation copy in the dustbin without reading it, along with reams of other propaganda with which the ministry is inundated.

Mr Elahi dissociated his Government from the article's view "in the strongest terms", and said an official apology would be made to the Zimbabwe Government.



Three pro-Palestinians (left to right) Mr Khalid al-Khatib, Mr Abdul-Hakim Khalifa and Mr Ian Davison, accused of murdering three Israelis, leaving a court in Nicosia where they were committed to stand trial in January.

## Cuban mayor turns Miami tide

From Trevor Fishlock, Miami

The political tide has turned dramatically in Miami. The city's first Cuban mayor started work yesterday pledging to heal the complex racial quarrels that have marked the city for years.

The election of Mr Xavier Suarez, a lawyer aged 37, marks the inevitable arrival of a political force of the people who fled from Cuba after Fidel Castro took power in 1959.

Cubans settled in large numbers in Miami and prospered. Today they form half the 400,000 population and give the city its distinctive Hispanic stamp. The exodus from Cuba was essentially a transfer of much of one country's educated middle class to another, and Miami owes much of its rapid development to the Cuban influx.

But this mass migration inevitably strained relations with blacks and white Americans (known as Anglos), who each form about a quarter of the population. Many whites have moved up the coast to escape the Hispanic influence and blacks have been resentful at the way they claim their jobs have been taken. In past elections the fear of a Cuban takeover has been exploited, and helped to keep Mr Maurice Ferré, a Puerto Rican, as mayor for 12 years.

Cuban political feeling lay dormant for years. The older generation generally ignored local politics and dreamed of returning to Cuba. Like their elders, the younger generation is steeped in Cuban traditions, is obsessively anti-communist, and adheres to the conservative wing of the Republican Party. But these younger people were mostly born in America and are American-

minded. As the election demonstrated, they are taking their part in the mainstream, taking up their American inheritance.

The former mayor lost partly because he represented the old Machiavellian politics, and partly because he infuriated blacks by dismissing the black city manager, a hero of Miami's black community.

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## Big changes in top state posts point to Delhi Cabinet shuffle

Delhi (Reuters) - The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, carried out a big reshuffle of state governors yesterday, paving the way for a possible expansion of his cabinet and rewarding close supporters.

The reorganization started when the Punjab Governor, Mr Arjun Singh, resigned amid speculation that he might become Defence Minister, a post now held by Mr Gandhi.

Mr Singh, appointed Governor of Punjab in March, was one of the main architects of a peace accord signed in July by Mr Gandhi and the moderate Sikh leader, Harchand Singh Longowal, to end Sikh separatist violence in the northern state.

Mr Singh was succeeded by Shankar Dayal Sharma, a senior supporter of Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) party, who was governor of Andhra Pradesh state, in southern India.

The largely ceremonial posts of governor are widely regarded as rewards for senior politicians. But Mr Singh wielded sweeping powers while enforcing direct rule from Delhi in Punjab. Speculation that he would be given a new job increased after state polls in

September, when his post reverted to its traditional role.

An official spokesman said Mr Sharma would be replaced by Mr Karmudben Joshi, a former Health Minister.

He said another prominent Congress supporter, Mr Vasu-Drao Patil had been named Governor of the western state of Rajasthan. Mr Patil is a former Chief Minister of neighbouring Maharashtra.

Official sources said Mr Gandhi decided to switch the state governors after consultations with senior Cabinet colleagues.

The declined to comment on speculation that Mr Singh might also be re-appointed Chief Minister of his home state of Madhya Pradesh before the December 3 anniversary of the Bhopal gas disaster.

In another sign that Mr Gandhi might be planning top-level changes, Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor, Mr M. K. Wali, resigned. An official spokesman said he would be succeeded by Mr Marshal H. K. J. Kapur, a former vice-head of the Air Force.

Mr Singh moved to re-build ties with India's Sikh minority after he took over the Punjab post.

### Assam state elections

## United minorities pose a poll threat

From Michael Hanlyn, Hojai, Assam

A serious threat to the chances of Congress (I), the party of the Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi, winning Assam's forthcoming state elections is posed by the formation of a new political party to represent the interests of the state's minority communities.

The new body, the United Minorities Front, was launched at a mass meeting held in this sub-district town early this week. It includes representatives of Bengali Hindus, Nepalese, plantation workers (who are mostly of tribal descent from other Indian states like Orissa and Uttar Pradesh), and even tribals from the plains of Assam itself. But the front is principally an organization for, and is dominated by, Bengali Muslims.

The Bengali Muslims have been the principal target of the Assam agitation aiming to rid the state of immigrants from neighbouring overcrowded Bangladesh, and they were mainly responsible for electing the present Congress (I) Government of the state in the bloody elections of 1983. The Bengali Hindus were given special refugee status when they left the former East Pakistan after partition, while the other minorities are undeniably of Indian descent.

"The minorities gave life and blood in the last election for the interest of Congress (I)," belated Mr Abdul Aziz, the president of the Assam Minority Union, form the platform of the meeting here, where more than 20,000 people, mostly Muslims in white caps and sarong-like lungis, sat on the grass or milled about on nearby roads. "But Congress (I) has treated the minorities like gods of foxes," he said.

The Muslims are angry with the Congress Party for signing the Assam accord with the anti-foreigner agitators of the All-Assam Students Union. The accord says that all immigrants who arrived after 1971 will be sent back to Bangladesh, and some immigrants from 1966 to 1971 will be disenfranchised and

forced to register as foreigners for ten years.

The Congress Party has long depended on minority support, not only in Assam but also in most other states. Untouchables, Muslims and tribals from the most consistent of the Congress vote banks.

The Congress chief ministers of Assam, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, made no bones about warning the Assamese chauvinists of this himself recently, when he declared that of the state's 22.5 million population there are about 5.1 million Muslims, 2.3 million tribals, 1.3 million scheduled castes (the former Untouchables), and 5 million other backward classes.

But if the indigenous Assamese support the party founded by the agitators, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP - the Assam People's Council) and the Muslims support candidates of the new party, or other anti-AGP parties in those constituencies where no front candidate stands, the Congress will be outnumbered. It is possible, too, that some of the other backward classes and some of the tribes will regard themselves as supporters of the AGP.

The cynical view of the assembly here was expressed by the deputy commissioner for the area, Mr Khosla. He wondered if the front was not just another attempt at bargaining with the ruling Congress Party to get more concessions, and at the end of the bargaining process would return to their usual loyalty.

It would not be hard for the new party to withdraw since it has been formed too late to register as a party proper, and will have to fight those seats it chooses as a collection of independents.

The principal figure in the Minorities Front, Mr Ghulam Osman, a former Janata minister in the state, and now general secretary of the front, was quite firm, however, that the front would continue even if the central Government passes a law to mitigate the other burdens of the Foreigners Act.

Belgrade (AP) - Scores of birds killed themselves this week by crashing into houses in Zlatibor, Yugoslavia's highest town in Montenegro, the *Vencorje Novosti* newspaper reported yesterday.

It said the birds beat window panes with their beaks or with their wings in scenes resembling the Hitchcock horror film *The Birds*.

Twenty-two birds died when they crashed through an open window into the bathtub of Mica Karadzic.

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## Belgium and Switzerland top Europe's Aids table

Copenhagen (Reuters) - Belgium, Switzerland and Denmark top the list of European countries with recorded cases of Aids, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

A survey of 18 countries, including two from East Europe, showed the virus had been transmitted mainly through homosexual activity and drug abuse.

The report said 1,300 cases of Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) were registered in Europe.

Belgium has an estimated 10 Aids cases for every million inhabitants, followed by Switzerland with 9.7 and Denmark with 9.4 cases. The report said 74 per cent of registered cases in Belgium and 16 per cent of patients in Switzerland were people from Africa. In Denmark there were no foreign cases. In France there were seven Aids victims per million of population. In The Netherlands 4.6, West Germany 3.6, Sweden 3.3, Britain 3.1, Spain 1.0 and Greece and Italy 0.9.

## Scores of birds die in suicide attacks on homes

Belgrade (AP) - Scores of birds killed themselves this week by crashing into houses in Zlatibor, Yugoslavia's highest town in Montenegro, the *Vencorje Novosti* newspaper reported yesterday.

It said the birds beat window panes with their beaks or with their wings in scenes resembling the Hitchcock horror film *The Birds*.

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## The road to Geneva

## Gorbachov's insistence on arms issue bodes ill for summit talks

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin is approaching next week's superpower summit with deep suspicion of President Reagan's intentions. A determination to place arms control squarely at the top of the agenda and little apparent optimism that any significant progress can be achieved.

In private, both Soviet officials and ordinary citizens appear convinced that their new leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, will prove more than a match for President Reagan, whose age and political gaffes are repeatedly emphasized here with undisguised delight.

Although experienced diplomats believe that Mr Gorbachov would like to secure a reduction in international tensions to be able to devote more resources to the Soviet Union's sluggish economy, they predict that he will adopt a tough bargaining approach in Switzerland.

Soviet expectations about the summit appear to have dropped sharply since President Reagan's controversial address to the United Nations laying emphasis on regional conflicts with Soviet involvement. Soviet commentators have responded by stepping up attacks on the US role in Grenada, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and elsewhere.

## Common front on Star Wars eludes Europe

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The summit in Geneva will take place without agreement in Europe on the political and defence implications of the American strategic defence initiative.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, who presided over the ministerial council meeting of the Western European Union here yesterday, insisted last night that the question was not whether a common stance on the subject was more or less easy. "It is just premature," he said.

As far as the summit itself was concerned, he said, European ministers were not expecting miracles but were hoping that a way might be opened for approaching the problems under negotiation at Geneva.

On both points Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, agreed with him. He told the meeting that the European allies were behind the US at the

to the problematic run-up to the summit - the first since 1979 - the Soviet media have been mounting increasingly bitter criticism of the US approach, particularly President Reagan's two attempts at direct contact with the Soviet people - his radio broadcast last weekend and his earlier interview with four top Soviet journalists.

Mr Vysevolod Ovchinnikov, of Pravda, one of those flown to the White House from Moscow, gave readers of the Soviet Communist Party's official newspaper a pessimistic account of the meeting. He said that the US leader had given "no developed or convincing answer to the question... of the elimination of the nuclear threat."

Mr Ovchinnikov's views are regarded as reflecting those that the Soviet leader will be putting forward in Geneva. He laid emphasis on what he claimed was the American intention of using the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars, to try and achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union.

"The SDI programme has an insidious aim," the Pravda commentator claimed. "To give the United States the possibility of inflicting a first strike

with impunity and paralysing the ability to the Soviet Union to reply to the aggressor."

After alleging that the US now has 1,500 military bases scattered throughout 32 different countries, Mr Ovchinnikov concluded: "We would like to hope that a sober approach will return the White House's thinking, and that this will justify hopes which all peoples, including Americans, attach to the forthcoming meeting."

Soviet officials repeatedly emphasize the Kremlin's determination to press arms control as the central issue of the Geneva discussions. Mr George Shulz's heavy emphasis on the vexed question of human rights during his four-hour meeting with Mr Gorbachov is understood to have been one reason why the US Secretary of State's pre-summit mission to Moscow was so unproductive.

Foreign observers here note that over human rights and regional conflicts the Kremlin appears determined to adopt an attacking approach, singling out what are described as acts of "state terrorism" allegedly carried out by the US or its agents. "There is no doubt that Mr Gorbachov has decided that attack is very much the best form of defence on these issues, which he regards as secondary," said one.

One Tass commentator, Mr Askold Biryukov, reflected the Kremlin view on Tuesday when he accused the White House of launching "smoke-screen diplomacy" by putting to the fore regional issues and attempting to relegate disarmament to "the background."

Claiming that the US now planned to bring "more than two dozen" issues to the negotiating table, the Soviet writer stated: "It is clear that a mere enumeration of these problems, and the translation involved, will take a lot of time, and that there will be none left for a thorough discussion of the problems uppermost in the minds of the peoples of the whole world."

It is widely believed among the diplomatic community here that Mr Gorbachov will play effectively to the world, and particularly to the Europeans, in pressing home his determination to focus the talks on the arms race. His skilful performance in the Elysée Palace last month was seen as demonstrating his ability as a communicator.

## MEPs in challenge to EEC budget

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The European Parliament yesterday threw down a challenge to the Council of Ministers in Brussels by voting unanimously for additional spending in the 1986 EEC budget of more than £1 billion to cover the cost of enlargement to 12 members and a backlog of past commitments.

Mr Henning Christopherson, the Budget Commissioner, said this could mean a crisis over current EEC financial obligations by next spring, unless a compromise is achieved.

The assembly voted for the package of extra spending by 327 votes with no votes against and seven abstentions. MEPs were making a rare show of political unity at a time when they are seeking greater power within the EEC on the eve of the crucial Community summit early next month.

The Parliament is conscious of the fact that the only real power it has at present is over the budget, and has in effect restored budget cuts made earlier this year by the Council of Ministers. The Parliament argues that the Council has failed to take into account either the cost of Spain and Portugal's entry or the backlog of commitments on regional and social spending.

The budget now goes back to the Council, which will almost certainly cut it again.

The budget vote yesterday far exceeds the Parliament's legal powers, which are theoretically limited to "non-obligatory" spending, a small portion of the total budget. In addition to the £1 billion extra spending, the Parliament also authorized the spending of £133 million on transport, education, energy research and development aid, all within its legally permitted limits.

Mr Christopherson focussed on the allocation of more than £700 million for social and regional funds carried over from previous years. Under the computerized budget system, spending is divided into current payments and longer-term targets, known as "commitments."

But 25 per cent of the commitment has to come out of current payments - or, in the case of social spending, as much as 50 per cent. Mr Christopherson's point is that by authorizing spending on past commitments the Parliament is also cutting heavily into current payments.

The Parliament set aside a total of £433 million to cover the cost of Spanish and Portuguese membership, including £275 million for the cost of structural changes to the Spanish and Portuguese economies and £160 million for the likely impact of Iberian entry on the annual farm price decision.

Mrs Barbara Castle, of the British Labour group, won Parliament's support for her passionate demand that Europe's small farmers should receive direct income aid to protect them from farm price cuts.

A proposal for the free distribution of surplus beef and butter to the EEC's less advantaged citizens, such as the poor and the elderly, was also approved, provided the cost of such a scheme was less than the cost of storing the surpluses.

But the Parliament blocked a £75 million allocation of aid for the olive oil industry pending a Commission investigation into olive oil frauds in Italy.



Mr Peres emphasizing a point during a speech in Tel Aviv to Labour Party colleagues.

## Battle to patch up Israeli coalition

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Leaders of Israel's main parties spent yesterday trying to find a way to hold the national unity government together with or without Mr Ariel Sharon, the rebel Trade and Industry Minister.

Both Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud Deputy Prime Minister, showed they believed there was much to lose if the Government collapsed.

But Mr Peres continued to insist that he had to have a full apology from Mr Sharon on six specific points before he would withdraw his threat to dismiss the minister.

Mr Sharon has accused Mr Peres of going behind the Government's back to hold secret talks with King Hussein of Jordan, and had even claimed that the Prime Minister is prepared to consider what amounts to the ultimate Israeli treason: talking to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

After a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday evening, when Mr Sharon was reprimanded for his attack, Mr Peres said: "Sharon's apology is conditional; it does not contain any expression of confidence in me."

Yesterday morning, however, Mr Peres said he feared that, if an election became necessary through a fall of the Government, it would "halt the process of economic recovery and be liable to harm our diplomatic efforts."

Mr Shamir is to take over as Prime Minister from Mr Peres in October. But if the coalition breaks up, the agreement is worthless. Mr Shamir would be liable to lose the leadership of his own Herut faction at its conference in January, and would therefore stand little chance of ever becoming Prime Minister.

That is why, in a radio interview yesterday, Mr Shamir said there was "a general feeling that it is necessary for the national unity government to exist."

However, there is already too much ill-feeling between Mr Peres and Mr Sharon, and yesterday Mr Yitzhak Peretz, the Interior Minister, who belongs to the tiny Shas religious party, spent the day acting as a go-between, trying to find a form of words for an apology which would be acceptable to both men.

Mr Sharon showed he was not prepared to go much further than his original apology on Wednesday, when he said he was sorry if he had personally insulted the Prime Minister, but that he continued to stand by his opinion.

## Riot at Soweto hospital ends with arrest of 718 staff

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African police arrested 718 employees of Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, Johannesburg's sprawling satellite township, yesterday after they went on strike and rioted in support of higher wages.

A police spokesman said all those arrested - 574 women and 144 men - had been taken to a local police station, charged under the emergency regulations with attending an illegal gathering, and then released with a warning to appear in court on November 29.

The trouble apparently began on Wednesday night when some of the 1,000 student nurses at Baragwanath were baton-charged by hospital security guards as they demonstrated against their work conditions.

Yesterday morning the student nurses refused to attend lectures or do other duties, and presented the hospital authorities with a list of grievances.

These included the imposition of an 8 pm curfew, the quality of their food and alleged victimization of nurses who voiced complaints.

The nurses also refused to "act as seabs" by doing the jobs of striking cleaners, kitchen staff, messengers, porters and other hospital employees who have been fighting for an increase in their pay since last year.

A mass meeting of daily-paid workers striking for higher wages deteriorated and groups of unruly workers rampaged through the kitchens and dining rooms, destroying crockery and throwing prepared food on the floors. Dr Chris van der Heever, the chief superintendent of the hospital said:

"A doctor at the hospital described the situation as 'chaotic'."

A spokesman for the Hospital Workers' Association said that

it fully supported the demands of its members for higher wages. It quoted cases of staff with 10 years' service who were still earning only 150 rands (about £40) a month.

Journalists trying to enter the hospital were turned back by a police officer, who told them: "This is an unrest situation, you are not allowed to be here."

Under a decree issued on November 2, the police have the power to ban all on-the-spot television, radio and press coverage of unrest in emergency areas.

In a separate development, the "Transitional Government of National Unity" in South African-occupied Namibia yesterday freed 22 imprisoned supporters of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the guerrilla movement fighting for Namibia's independence.

## Botha offers blacks 'consultation'

Johannesburg-President Botha, announced moves yesterday to involve South Africa's blacks, who account for 73 per cent of the population, in what he called "the consultation process" (Michael Hornsby writes). At present, blacks are excluded from any political say at national level.

In an address to a plenary

session in Cape Town of the President's Council, a multi-racial advisory body, Mr Botha also reaffirmed his Government's commitment "to the principle of a united South Africa, joint citizenship and franchise for all within the structures chosen for South Africa by South Africans."

The President further announced a long-awaited decision to proceed with the exploitation of sea-bed natural gas deposits off Mossel Bay on South Africa's south coast. Mr Botha said the capital cost of the project would be about 3,500 million and £930 million, and that 20,000 new jobs could be created during the peak construction phase.

## Humiliation at UN for Moscow

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The Soviet Union suffered its most humiliating defeat in decades at the United Nations when the General Assembly sent a clear message to Moscow that its occupation of Afghanistan was a diplomatic embarrassment that will not go away.

A record 122 countries censured the six-year occupation after a three-day debate which took on significance this year because of the new Soviet leadership which has shown itself intent on projecting an image of vitality and virtue.

The vote, in which only 19 countries voted "no" and 12 abstained, would make the Afghan issue a difficult one for Mr Gorbachov to ignore at the Geneva summit.

Pakistan, which led the campaign in the assembly, was able to exact vengeance on Soviet efforts to win legitimacy for the Kabul Government. Moscow has tried through cross-border attacks and intensive diplomatic lobbying to force Pakistan into direct negotiations with the Soviet-backed Government of Mr Babrak Karmal.

The assembly showed it believed such an initiative was designed to secure a settlement that would seal the Pakistani-Afghan border, thereby protecting Soviet forces from the Afghan resistance without allowing the return of Afghan refugees and leaving Soviet forces in place.

Moscow would thereby succeed in cutting off the lifeline of the Afghan Mujahidin and ensure a virtually trouble-free occupation of Afghanistan.

It was not certain, however, whether the vote which Pakistan had sought had reached a saturation point last year when 119 countries rejected Soviet claims that the Afghan war was part of a Western imperialist design, or would put new life into the three-year-old UN mediation effort, which as reached an impasse on the issue of direct talks.

After reaching agreement through proximity talks on three draft treaties, dealing with mutual guarantees of non-interference between Afghanistan and Pakistan, international and the return of Afghan refugees, the Kabul Government is insisting on direct talks before discussing a time-frame for Soviet withdrawal.

The sticking point has inspired suggestions from the UN for freezing the talks.



Swiss security forces at Geneva airport in readiness for next week's summit.

## Doe rounds up coup attempt suspects

From Richard Everett, Abidjan

All reports coming from Liberian capital of Monrovia indicate that the head of state, General Samuel Doe, has successfully put down an attempt to overthrow his government, and has begun rounding up suspected opponents.

A battle between loyalist and rebel troops, believed to be the last big confrontation, is said to have taken place on Wednesday on the road linking the capital to the international airport.

However, reports from diplomats and journalists reached by telex from Abidjan indicate that there was only scattered gunfire heard around the city on

Wednesday night, and that atmosphere was described as tense but calm on Thursday morning.

The private Christian radio station Elwa said on Wednesday night that General Doe is "definitely in charge" and government workers were told to report to work yesterday. Shops and banks reopened yesterday and traffic in the city centre, deserted during the fighting, began to return to normal, though there were numerous searches.

Unconfirmed reports from Monrovia said that some soldiers had been seen looting and that a number of journalists and opposition politicians had been

arrested in a hunt for coup participants and suspected sympathizers. Further reports indicate that a number of buildings have been burnt down including the headquarters of the opposition Liberia Action Party, possibly by Doe supporters retaliating against suspected coup supporters.

After the first announcements of the attempted ousting of General Doe, large numbers of civilians and some soldiers were said to have filled the streets in celebration.

Residents and foreign embassies have been ordered not to harbour rebels, and the airport and land borders remain closed.

## Geldof plea is spurned by tight-fisted EEC

From Jonathan Braude, Strasbourg

The European Parliament has set aside only £5,700 for an emergency food aid reserve, in spite of pleas for more by its own development committee, and a scathing attack on the EEC's meanness last month by the Live Aid fund raiser Bob Geldof.

The European Commission called last spring for a total of £94 million for the 500,000 emergency reserve, dominated by Mrs Thatcher and other EEC leaders at their summit in Dublin last year. But at the urging of the British Treasury Minister, Mr Ian Gow, the budget ministers of the Ten cut the money out of the 1986 allocation.

The Parliament's development committee, spurred on by public opinion and Mr Geldof's attack on petty accountancy,

proposed the reinstatement of the whole of the £94 million. But the Parliament voted instead for the much smaller token put forward by its budgets committee, because of assurances from the budget ministers that the money would be made available from elsewhere if it was needed.

According to Mr David Curry, a British Conservative member of the budget committee, there would have been no money left over the equally important social measures such as health for the unemployed or the handicapped, if the development committee proposal had been honoured.

Meanwhile, Euro-MPs did vote to increase the total food aid and development allocation in the 1986 budget by £23 million to £312 million,

## Two women save girl in struggle with crocodile

Nairobi (AP) - A girl aged 10 was rescued from a crocodile by her father's two wives, the Kenya News Agency reported yesterday.

The girl's mother, Mrs Esha Wako, was fetching water from the Tana river in south-east Kenya last week when she saw the crocodile carrying her daughter, Samaha, into the river. She grabbed the girl's leg and had a tug-of-war with the crocodile, which was gripping the child's buttocks.

Mrs Anja Wako, the second wife of Mr Wako Habudi, heard shouting, plunged into the river and jabbed the crocodile in its eyes. It released the girl and fled.

Samaha received stitches on her buttocks at a clinic and was allowed home.

## "At least everyone's got a roof over their head these days."



Despite the provisions of the welfare state, thousands of children sleep rough every night all over Britain. (The picture above was taken late one night last May in central London.) Like the lad taking shelter in the cardboard box, many of them have been forced to run away from home. Some are looking for work, any work. Some are trying to escape the misery of life in the decaying inner cities of our country. Others are running away from parents with problems of their own. Many of those who stay at home fare little better. Hundreds of thousands of children are living in conditions that create physical hardship, family tensions and worse.

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## Contempt formalities warning

In re C (a Minor)

Before Lord Justice Ackner, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Nourse

[Judgment delivered November 11]

Notwithstanding several reported decisions of the Court of Appeal, in which the need for meticulous adherence to the required formalities in contempt proceedings had been emphasized in the strongest terms, courts continued to depart from the proper course with the result that the Court of Appeal was continually being driven to discharge committal orders even in cases where the existence of a serious and deliberate contempt of court had never been in doubt.

It was to be hoped that courts and practitioners dealing with contempt proceedings would in future recognize that the requirements of the law had to be complied with before an alleged contemnor could properly be sent to prison.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, expressed its concern that procedural errors constrained them to discharge that part of an order made by Judge Gill, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, committing to prison on September 16, 1985, the mother of a ward of court, to prison for an alleged contempt of court, on an application by the plaintiffs, the mother's step-father and his wife.

Mr James Munby for the mother, Miss Christine Harmer for the plaintiffs, Miss Anna Pouffley for the ward.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL, delivering the judgment of the court, said that a court order had given the plaintiffs care and control of the ward. After a period of access, the second defendant, the ward's father, had taken the child to Italy.

In proceedings by the plaintiffs against the defendants on August 2, Judge Hewitt, sitting as a deputy High Court judge at Newcastle upon Tyne, ordered that the minor... be

returned to the care and control of the plaintiffs forthwith. The mother was ordered to attend court on August 7.

At the conclusion of the hearing on August 7, Judge Gill ordered that (1) the mother be committed to prison "for contempt of court" suspended for 21 days and a discharge of the order be considered if the ward was returned to the care and control of the plaintiffs within that time; (2) the child be returned to the jurisdiction of the court within 10 days; and (3) the mother surrender her passport.

On September 16, on the plaintiffs' summons, Judge Gill made an order, suspended for 14 days, that the mother be committed to prison for contempt of court in arranging or assisting in the removal of the ward from the court's jurisdiction; in refusing to arrange for the return of the ward; and in making every effort to ensure that the jurisdiction remained out of the jurisdiction.

The proceedings on September 16 took place in chambers and there was no announcement in open court of the committal order.

No objection was taken to the order of August 2.

It was conceded that the order of August 2 was fatally flawed in that, contrary to section 14(1) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, it imposed a suspended indefinite sentence of imprisonment.

The fact that Form No 85 in Appendix A of the Rules of the Supreme Court contained the words "It is ordered that for his said contempt the defendant do stand committed to [ ] prison to be there imprisoned (until further order) did not alter the position. If the form could not be saved by Order 1, rule 9(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court it was *ultra vires*. The statute had to prevail.

Furthermore, the order failed to state the contempt and was invalid on that additional ground: see

*Mellor v Gads* [1968] 1 QB 469.

Finally, it was not clear to whom the order was directed, nor did it make clear what the mother was to do to comply with it: see *Attorney-General v Staffordshire County Council* [1983] 1 Ch 336, 342, referred to with approval by Lord Upjohn in *Attorney-General v Redland Bricks Ltd* [1970] AC 652, 666.

With regard to the proceedings on September 16, it was accepted that they should have been launched by motion: see Order 52, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The need for an announcement of the order under rule 6(2) would have required the court to formulate the order more precisely.

The order of that date was flawed in four respects: it was founded in part on a defective injunction; it was founded on a contempt which, it was conceded, had already been punished; the particulars of contempt did not conform with the oral judgment; and the sentence was not for a fixed term.

Not only the form of the order but the entire proceedings were at fault and it was too late to cure them under Order 59, rule 10(3).

There was a pressing need for an authoritative statement immediately accessible in every court, office and set of chambers, stating clearly and concisely what had to be done.

The court had been told that legal aid was rarely granted in cases like the present, where the party was apparently in flagrant contempt of court. The interests of the subject could best be protected, and the risk of error minimised, if the legal aid authorities in such cases were to grant a certificate for the obtaining of advice by counsel, with a view to deciding whether the defendant ought to be represented at the committal hearing.

Solicitors: Fox-Robinson & Co for Westgarths, Coventry; George W. Mills & Son, Washington; Official Solicitor.

*Parra v Rones*

Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nourse

[Judgment delivered November 11]

An order for committal for contempt of court which failed to specify on the order the reason why the contemnor was being committed to prison that day was invalid for non-compliance with the County Court Rules. The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by Trevor Victor Rones from an order of Judge Tucker, QC, made at Basingstoke County Court on November 5, 1985, on the application of Anne Christine Parra.

Mr Ashley Ailes for the appellant contemnor, Mr Nigel Lickley for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that although the order specified the injunction against molestation of the applicant of which the contemnor was in breach, it did not set out the particular matter of contempt as required by Order 29, rule 1 of the

County Court Rules. Although that was a technical defect, it concerned an order of a quasi-criminal nature which had to be strictly drawn and the rules strictly complied with.

A person was not to be committed for contempt unless he could see from the face of the order what he was being committed for. Although the warrant for committal recited the contempt alleged, that was a document which was addressed to the bailiffs, the police

and the prison governor but not to the contemnor.

In a jurisdiction in which it was very necessary to adhere strictly to the form laid down, the technical irregularity could not be cured simply by the service of another document.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD and LORD JUSTICE NOURSE agreed.

Solicitors: Foster Wella, Aldershot; Snow & Bispham, Basingstoke.

## Committal reasons omitted

## Vital defect in order

*Tabone v Segura*

November 11, allowing an appeal by John Segura from an order of Judge Sweeney at Shoreditch County Court on October 18, 1985.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that it was not possible to say how far the judge had relied on the matters which were not in the affidavits and the order could not therefore be permitted to stand. Where a man's liberty was at stake, the requirements of the law must be strictly complied with.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nourse) so held on

## Driver's lawful arrest not essential

*Gull v Scarborough*

Before Lord Justice Mustill and Mr Justice McNeill

[Judgment delivered November 12]

A lawful arrest was not an essential prerequisite to a requirement for a specimen of blood under section 8 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the prosecutor from the dismissal of an information charging an offence under section 8(7) by the Inner London Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate.

Mr Walter Bealby for the prosecutor; the defendant did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL said that the defendant refused to provide a roadside specimen and was arrested. At the police station the evidential breath testing machine was out of order and the defendant was required to provide a specimen of blood. The defendant refused and was charged with an offence under section 8(7).

The magistrate found that the police officers had no reasonable cause to suspect that the defendant was driving his car with an excess of alcohol in his breath. It followed that the arrest by the roadside was unlawful.

Applying the reasoning of Lord Fraser of Tullybelton in *Fox v Chief Constable of Gwent* [1982] 1 WLR 1126) and where the machine for testing breath was not available, it must follow that a requirement under section 8 was not qualified by a previous requirement of a valid arrest.

The case was to be remitted to the magistrate.

MR JUSTICE McNEILL, agreeing, said that there was no distinction in principle between the provision of a breath test and the provision of blood or urine. Justices had a discretion to exclude evidence when the case fell within *R v Sang* [1982] AC 402. Police officers had to be careful that no question of oppression arose in the taking of a specimen under section 8.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Television  
Grave face of a childSearching for a Miracle (Forty Minutes, BBC 2) was, as the title suggested, concerned less with any blessed intervention than with the journey towards it - a pilgrimage animated by a belief as fervent as it is touching, and one which has undoubtedly been responsible for changes in the human mind and body (a distinction which under these circumstances is at best dubious and at worst positively misleading).

And so the makers of this documentary followed the parents of a two-year-old boy, suffering from an apparently incurable disease, to Lourdes: "You have to believe", the father said. One would have thought it necessary for the boy to believe, also, before his disease could be affected - but that is perhaps too conventionally psychological an attitude to a terrible situation, and to the overwhelming phenomenon of prayer and worship which Lourdes represents.

There in their thousands are the sick and the afflicted: it is a place of suffering, but it was possible to see how that suffering could become part of a larger context.

But last night's programme was moving also in a quite different sense; it was an evocation of mortality, to be seen very clearly on the grave face of the child himself. The strangest words came from the father, whose own cheerfulness represented a different kind of miracle: "He knows he's dying, but he doesn't know what it means".

Peter Ackroyd

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## THE ARTS II

هكذا من الأهل

## Concerts

Alfred Brendel  
St John's

With the gentle C major allegretto which opens *Moments Musicaux* - delivered with the casual insouciance of a speaker who knows he can command everyone's attention - Alfred Brendel inaugurated the first resident Steinway at St John's.

Demonstrating an instrument's potential by a dash through some dazzling lullabies, is hardly Brendel's style. Yet anyone who feared his all-Brahms programme might be limited in expressive range need only have listened to his epic interpretation of the Wanderer Fantasy.

It is precisely because of his powers of persuasive understatement - manifested here in his delicate tracing of those usually rumbustious bass runs in the opening Allegro, or in the superbly weighted hemidemi-semiquaver scales which fluttered gravely and beautifully through the Adagio - that Brendel's climaxes seem so intense.

The scherzo, thoroughly presto and impishly accented, paved the way for a grandiose reading of the finale, where Brendel made no attempt to make the figure's rough places plain.

In the B flat Sonata, D960, too, it was the masterful transitions between emotional extremes that most caught the ear.

The *Moments Musicaux* which this capacity audience had heard earlier seemed a shade over-peddled for St John's - generous acoustic. Brendel's throwaway ending (complementing his throwaway beginning) was treasurable, but his interpretation of the first F minor piece seems to have lost a little of its Viennese lilt lately.

Richard Morrison

Nash Ensemble/  
Friend

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Just touching base before the exhibition itself, the musical events connected with the "Homage to Barcelona" show at the Hayward Gallery opened last night with a very lively concert by the Nash Ensemble. Granados and Pedrell lived in Barcelona, as did their pupil Roberto Gerhard: all were featured in this concert, along with another Pedrell pupil, Falla.

Granados was enticingly represented by a rarity, his Piano Quintet in G minor of 1898, which rather suggested a Spanish equivalent of Dvořák, making many of the right Austro-German noises in the outer movements, but slipping into the centre an intermezzo of local colour: a night in the gardens of Spain with the tune waltzed between piano and first violin and precious little else happening.

Gerhard's development is still more puzzling, as charted in the three works we heard here: the Stravinskian *Seven Haikus* of 1922, the *Cancionero de Pedrell* of 1941 and the late *Libra* of 1968, with its cubist mix of folksong, Stravinsky and Varèse. The *Cancionero*, orchestrating eight folksongs from Pedrell's collections, is also erratic: the first song is based on a striking orchestral imitation of a Majorcan drum, but the second is immediately off into café music.

Nevertheless, Jennifer Smith gave an alluringly pure performance, as she did also of the haikus and of Falla's dream of eighteenth-century French classicism by way of Fauré: *Psyché*. The other Falla work, his Harpsichord Concerto, was smartly played by Ian Brown.

Paul Griffiths

## Cinema

## The empire strikes back

Colonel Redl (15)  
Canon Film Centre:  
Minema (from Nov 22)My Beautiful  
Laundrette (15)  
Screen on the Hill;  
MetroInvasion USA (18)  
Classic, Haymarket;  
Prince Charles

The real-life Colonel Alfred Redl, former Commander of the Austrian 8th Army in Prague and head of the Vienna Military Intelligence Department, committed suicide on May 25, 1913. The scandal was hushed up, and details only began to emerge long after the First World War and the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Not everything has been explained even today: all that seems certain is that Redl had sold military secrets to the Russians; and that homosexuality was included in the circumstances that turned an apparently loyal and diligent officer into a traitor.

The Redl affair provided the theme for John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*; and the credits of István Szabó's film include an "inspired by" credit to the play. As in *Mephisto*, Szabó uses the historical figure as a starting point for invention and his own speculation on history and human character; he calls the film "a probable variation

on the story of the life of Colonel Redl or other men with similar fates".

For Szabó the key to Redl lies in the caste and class system of the old empire. The son of a small station-master, Redl's diligence and loyalty to the monarchy win him a place in the military academy. Gratitude to the Emperor as well as ambition drive him on to prove himself. "To attain what he considers success, like so many before and since, he has to put aside his own origins, betray his family and his friends, when necessary. This endless stream of betrayal leads him inevitably to the depths of confusion about his own identity. He seeks a new identity behind the mask of the military uniform."

Yet this life-time's effort is in the end unavailing against the caste system. Redl's professional zeal is suspect in the eyes of his aristocratic comrades; and his efficiency is inconvenient to the Machiavellian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose plans depend upon the uninterrupted disintegration of the Empire. The Empire finds a place for Redl in the end, commissioned to name the scapegoat that policy requires, Redl - the outsider, both by breeding and sexual orientation - unwittingly but unerringly marks himself as the ideal sacrificial victim.

Dealing with a period of history more remote and less immediately involving than *Mephisto*, Colonel Redl is nevertheless a film that goes deeper in its portrait of a man vainly trying to live his own life in a corrupt and exclusive society. Like his recreation of Germany in the Thirties,

Szabó's evocation of the place and period subtly combines documentary veracity and irony. Here are the palaces and parks, the military academies, the Government offices, the grand balls and social rendezvous of Imperial Vienna, with all the protocol and formality that mask the devious machinations of policy.

Redl's personal relationships are subtly and sharply done: the unwavering adoration for this same aristocratic friend (most strange and anguished when they visit a brothel together), and the vicarious fulfilment through an affair with the boy's sister (Gudrun Landgrebe); the moments of panic when his past threatens to catch up. Szabó's gift for implying unexpressed relationships is most evident in Redl's encounters with his *garçon fatal*, a young Italian officer played by the outstanding Hungarian stage actor, László Gálfi.

Like the protagonist of *Mephisto*, Redl is played by the Austrian actor Klaus Maria Brandauer, whose large European, theatrical manner suits this inveterate pretender. His suicide is a *tour de force* both for director and actor. In the confrontation with Franz Ferdinand, and the gradual, terrifying recognition that he is not only the Archduke's hunter, but also the quarry, it is dramatically appropriate that he is definitively upstaged by the elegant under-playing of Armin Mueller-Stahl, smiling, unshaven, serenely whistling under his breath as he happily plots the downfall of a minion.

Comedy is still British cinema's strongest card. After *Letter to Brezhnev* comes *My Beautiful Laundrette* directed



Klaus Maria Brandauer as Colonel Redl, the ideal sacrificial victim

by Stephen Frears from a clever, funny, incisive script by the playwright Hanif Kureishi. Like *Letter to Brezhnev* and every other good comedy, there is deep seriousness behind the laughter. *My Beautiful Laundrette* talks about class, race, sex, ambition, business and contemporary life in Britain generally. Omar (Gordon Warneke) is an amiable, intelligent, impressionable young Pakistani who lives with his father (Roshan Seth) who may be drunk, disillusioned and bedridden but still retains his faith in socialist ideals and the value of education. Omar however is more impressed by the Thatch-

rite enterprise philosophy of his Uncle Nasser, father's brother. Uncle sets Omar up in a back-street laundrette (as the title spells it); and Omar brings in as helper a former school friend Johnny (Daniel Day-Lewis), who is trying to break away from his outgrown punk, NF hooligan mates. The turbulent love affair that blossoms between Omar and Johnny further entangles the complicated web of clan loyalty and moral decision.

Fine as it is, Kureishi's script owes not a little to Stephen Frears's unobtrusively skilled handling of the turbulence of incident and characters, and

sensitivity to background and location. The heterogeneous elements all mesh into one impression. The love story is not an imposed element, but integral to all the rest and faultlessly handled by director and actors, who treat it without emphasis or drama, as something inevitable, natural and sweetly comic.

The casting cleverly contrasts the native London accents of Omar and the cousin who fancies him (Rita Wolf), with the Pakistani lilt of the older, immigrant generation. The performers are a lovely ensemble, dominated by Saeed Jaffrey as the likeable old rascal

Nasser. Shirley Anne Field reappears after a long absence from the screen as his sad, graceful mistress who gets quite roughed-up by the old-world witchcraft of Mrs Nasser.

It is hard to judge whether *Invasion USA* reflects, or is intended to foment the paranoia of redneck and blue collar elements of the American audience. It is in any event an unpleasant document of the Second Cold War as we have seen, purporting to demonstrate the vulnerability of an unready American population to invasion by a hostile power.

David Robinson

## Theatre

## Reverent return for a biting comedy

Love for Love  
Lyttelton

This, as Peter Wood incredulously points out in his programme note, is the first London showing of Congreve's comedy since his own National Theatre production 20 years ago.

The version which Mr Wood now unveils at the Lyttelton is a very different affair. It is still firmly located in every-day London, with chairmen, battiffs, and lawyers' clerks passing through. One of the seductions is even indelicately underlined by the arrival of a sweep with a businesslike stack of brushes.

But the atmosphere of the play has changed from brisk sparkish attack to one of measured reverence. Back in the Sixties, Mr Wood was anxious to point out that Congreve was turning from a court to a mercantile audience, and that the play was launching a powerful onslaught on material greed. Now he simply declares it to be "one of the finest comedies in the language". And it duly gets the masterpiece treatment.

Foresight's house, a long perspective of windows opening behind a walled garden, with an elegant courtyard and pump downstage, suggests an exclusive bit of go-ahead Canonbury. In the garden, Foresight the astrologer is proclaimed by the presence of a telescope.

But, characteristically, he never touches it: it is used only once, to spy on lovers in the bedroom above. Otherwise it remains simply decorative. For comic purposes, neither set is particularly functional. *Love for Love*, for instance, is unusually crammed with eavesdropping scenes. To achieve this, the speakers have to come to a calculated stop behind a piffing little screen, or behind the wings of a chair, while the listeners form a mute group on the other side, observing whatever artificial boundary the plot requires.

Altogether the stage picture suggests whimsical fantasy rather than hard-edged comedy, and it seems that Mr Wood, having once demonstrated Congreve's vigour and moral purpose, is now trying to move on to hitherto unexplored depths.



Michael Bryant as Sir Sampson Legend with Basil Henson as Foresight

The most sustained example of this comes in the long open air scene in the first act. It begins in broad daylight, introducing the star-gazing Foresight and Valentine's brutally materialistic father.

The various intrigues intertwine, and gradually the shadows lengthen: Valentine's sailor brother Ben leads his cronies in a jolly dance that fades out into ethereal echoes, and the sombre figure of Scandal is left alone, brooding about his frustrated affair with Foresight's wife.

Of course, to a degree rare even in Congreve, this play bristles with wonderful ornamental speeches, that curl around the story like monastic lettering. The production does exemplary justice to these. As a servant Barry James's Jeremy sounds better educated than his masters; but no one will complain about that after listening to his speech on the spirit of famine.

Similarly, nothing in the text prepares you for the appearance of Niall Buggy as Scandal: transformed from one of Valentine's rakish companions into a

grave, unsmiling, dignified spectre of the moral conscience.

Individually Mr Buggy, like most of the company, is extremely impressive. The trouble is that so many of them fail to achieve mutual contact, and seem to be playing under glass-bells.

The comedy survives best in the hands of Michael Bryant as Sir Sampson: as an ogre representing the power of money, Sampson more than anyone is a target for one-dimensional performance. But as Mr Bryant plays him, close to tears at the return of Ben (Neil Dargatzis), and moving in lecherousness on his son's beloved, he has a constant power to surprise.

There is also Sarah Kestelman, who does a marvellous reptilian number with the gold-digging Mrs Frail. Tim Curry may not eclipse the memory of Olivier's Fiddle, but his porcine Cherubino, lipping out his faux-naïf indiscretions and trying to bite his tongue out, and freezing into a gnome when pursued through Foresight's garden, keeps at least one comic threat stretched as tight as an E string. Irving Wardle

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## SPECTRUM

# Royal work among the refugees

Since she became president of the Save The Children Fund, Princess Anne has helped to raise its funds dramatically. Now she is internationally recognized in her own right as an authority on the problems of the Third World. Alan Hamilton reports

Hurricane Bob has swept across the famine belt of Africa, tearing at the consciences of the well-fed and rattling the loose slates of bureaucracy, graft and incompetence. In the climate of Third World aid, Princess Anne is a less mercurial but steadier and no less stern breeze who is likely to be blowing a brisk resolve into the Save The Children Fund long after Geldof has returned to his full-time rockery.

On Sunday she sets off on another of her regular marathon tours to see SCF at work in the field. She has never shirked poking about in the most deprived corners of the Earth; this trip will take her to Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, ending up in refugee camps in the remote border regions of Sudan.

Geldof achieved a galvanic miracle of fund-raising and publicity. Princess Anne, by now an old hand at charity aid, is becoming recognized as a considerable authority in her own right on the Third World. Her expertise will be acknowledged next month when she chairs the first of a series of London seminars on "Prospects For Africa", involving politicians, academics, representatives of international organizations, and the main charities.

Senior staff at SCF headquarters, housed in a redundant girls' school at Camberwell, south London, had to send a secretary to consult a file when asked who had been Princess Anne's predecessor as their president. (It was in fact Lord Boyd of Merion.) Since the Princess took on the job in 1971, she has given the charity an infinitely higher profile, particularly in the past three years when she has undertaken well-publicized tours of Africa, India and Bangladesh.

When she became president, the fund's annual income was less than £4 million. By 1984 it had risen to £16.5 million, and last year, mainly as a result of the response to the Ethiopian famine, it reached £42.5 million. In a normal year, two-thirds of the money is spent on projects abroad and a third in the United Kingdom, on projects as diverse as providing schooling for gypsy children in East Anglia and running a crèche for prisoners' children outside the Crumlin Road jail in Belfast.

No one pretends that the increase in the flow of funds has been Princess Anne's doing alone. But SCF staff are well aware that every time their president appears on television from a remote and benighted corner of the world, or makes a personal appearance at a fund-raising function, there is a surge in the flow of cash to Camberwell.

She is also adept at persuading other bodies which enjoy her patronage to contribute. Recently, while addressing a world freight conference in Brighton, she slipped in a sales patter for the Save The Children Fund; within days an international courier company had agreed to deliver medicines to any SCF project in the world, free of charge.

A small but exquisitely sweet triumph for her was to extract a substantial donation for Tibetan refugee children in India from, of all people, a conference of tax inspectors. Only nine out of the 700 delegates to the meeting of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation walked out in protest at the presence of a member of the ruling classes.

That coup was in the best traditions of Eglantine Jebb, who founded SCF in 1919 to aid war refugees and, in her first few weeks, extracted a £10,000 donation from the Miners' Federation.

But Princess Anne is at her best in the field, gingering up uncaring local politicians, and raising the morale of SCF's doctors and nurses with an expertise which often surprises them. "They start talking to her in that slow, too-deliberately simple and rather patronizing way that doctors sometimes adopt to their patients, as though they were all young and stupid children", says one of SCF's well-travelled officials. "But they soon change their tune when they realize just how much she knows."

Nicholas Hinton, SCF's director-general, says: "She is very supportive of the field workers. If she sees a lack of money or organization she will, off her own bat, knock at the necessary doors back home to get the action."

Hinton adds: "Not every African statesman has necessarily heard of SCF. But if Princess Anne is coming to his territory, you can bet your boots he will know all about it by the time she has gone. She does not shrink from asking pointed and direct questions, to put local politicians on the spot."

Whether the children know who she is does not appear to concern her. Those who do know call her *Mfote* or *Queenie*, Swahili for Daughter of the Queen.

Another SCF official with long experience of the Princess's tours says: "No charity could afford the advertising that she brings us free of charge. If one had a suit of pudding of a princess who was doing it all just for the ride, it wouldn't be the same. Apart from the recent phenomenon of Geldof, she is the best known head of any charity in the world."

SCF does not pay for the Princess's lengthy overseas excursions. If it did, it could hardly contain its administrative costs to the current level of 2.7 per cent of income. Nor does the Princess herself pay out of her Civil List allowance, currently £120,000 a year; that money, strictly speaking, is to pay for official functions where she deputizes for the Queen.

Tours are in fact funded through the Foreign Office, who pay the basic cost provided the Princess fulfils a number of official engagements en route. (For example, she will be meeting President Kaunda of Zambia, a country where SCF has no current projects.)

The arrangement has its potential for friction. British ambassadors or high commissioners in countries about to receive a visit sometimes try to tell the SCF what it should be doing with its money, and what the Princess ought to be seeing. Neither the Save The Children Fund nor its President take kindly to such interference, conscious as they are of their need for a wholly non-political image.

On a previous tour the Foreign Office also did its best to stop the Princess visiting Somalia and Beirut because of the danger to her life. "Damn them, I'm going", said the Princess, and made sure she was airborne before the next telex arrived from Whitehall.

Her capacity for hard work, for rising at the crack of dawn and



Ferociously hard-working: Princess Anne on tour at an SCF clinic in Bangladesh

copied with a full day's heavy programme, often in rough conditions, surprises those who travel with her. Sometimes towards the end of a tiring day the facade will crack a fraction, and she will groan in quiet despair at the thought of having to attend a thoroughly unproductive official dinner at which she may be one of the few guests who speak English.

Her stamina is a combination of physical fitness and her own character, in which she is obviously

her father's daughter. Having perhaps learnt from the experience of Princess Margaret, who never really carved out for herself a career in her own right and found much unhappiness as a result, Princess Anne has taken to heart her father's belief that the Royal Family must be seen to be earning their keep.

Although never showing much academic promise, she has always been an achiever; it was no part-time Sunday afternoon hacker who won a place in the Olympic three-day event

team. Nor is it any sweet-pudding princess along for the ride who is prepared to tackle the Derby course to raise money for another of her charities, Riding for the Disabled.

Her determination to be a person in her own right, and not merely the daughter of the monarch, is behind her consistent refusal of the title Princess Royal, traditionally bestowed on the eldest daughter of the sovereign.

Like her father, the Princess can be prickly and intolerant of incom-

petence and irrelevance. Her relations with the Press were exceedingly sour until, in 1982, the rag pack followed her on an African tour for the sole purpose of seeing a reunion between her and her husband at a time when rumours of marriage difficulties were particularly rife.

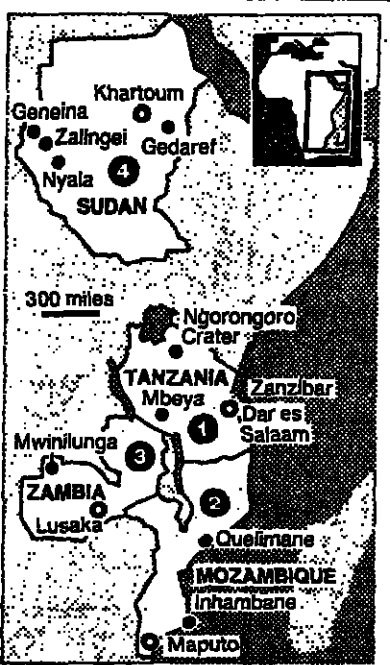
The reunion did not take place—at least not then—and the Press corps saw instead a ferociously hard-working woman who left them all gasping and sweating in the unaccustomed heat. They were genuinely impressed and have been kind to her ever since. She, too, has grown in confidence as shown by her quick-witted exchanges on television chat shows and articles for *Punch* magazine.

She is also, to those who meet her in the flesh, strikingly attractive, with a hand-span waist, easy smile and exceedingly delicate ankles, all set off by a mature but often bold dress sense which can be more stunning and certainly less self-conscious than that of the Princess of Wales.

She also has the ability to be a great reliever of tension, even in the darkest corners of Africa. The Andover had just touched down bearing the Princess and the SCF officials to yet another dusty airfield, and she peered out of the window as it taxied to the waiting guard of honour with its captain standing to rigid attention awaiting his royal guest.

"Good God," exclaimed the President of the Save The Children Fund, more in faith than in horror, "his flies are undone". The official greeting, moments later, was strictly eye-to-eye.

## GRUELLING SCHEDULE FOR A PRINCESS



**(1) TANZANIA**  
Sunday, Nov 17: Leave London. Monday: arrive Dar es Salaam. Tuesday: fly to Mbeya, visit hospitals. Wednesday: visit rehabilitation centre; fly to Songea. Thursday: fly to Zanzibar, visit hospital. Friday: view wildlife in Ngorongoro crater.

**(2) MOZAMBIQUE**  
Saturday, Nov 23: Fly to Maputo. Sunday: fly to Inhambane, visit SCF projects. Monday: Maputo, hospital visit. Tuesday: visit Quelimane; leave for Lusaka.

**(3) ZAMBIA**  
Wednesday: visit Cheshire Home and hospital; Thursday: fly to Mwinilunga to visit hospital; Friday: fly to Chipata, visit hospital; fly to Copperbelt. Saturday: visit copper mine, return to Lusaka. Sunday: Return to Dar es Salaam.

**(4) SUDAN**  
Monday, Dec 2: arrive Khartoum. Tuesday: visit hospital. Wednesday: fly to Nyala, visit SCF workshops. Thursday: fly to Zalingei camp. Friday: drive to Gedeira; return to Khartoum. Saturday: fly to Gedaref, visit camps. Sunday, Dec 8: return to Khartoum. Monday: visit memorial; return to London.



In the field: on SCF work

## Revival for the missing movies

With respect to the latest offerings of the maverick Peter Greenaway and the house of Steven Spielberg, hits of the 29th London Film Festival could turn out to be movies made 30, 50 and 60 years ago.

The first feature to be made in full Technicolor was *Becky Sharp*, in 1935. A cinema landmark if every there was one. Yet every one of the original 448 prints bar one was destroyed and all most cinema-goers have seen is a very inferior version using a more primitive colour process.

This has led to conflicting accounts of the film, with Becky's costume being described as "demure pink" when in the proper print it is a glorious yellow. When American archivists Robert Gitt and Richard Dayton set about trying to restore *Becky Sharp* to its original condition, they faced a daunting task.

Even the Technicolor company itself had kept only the first 10 minutes. The one surviving original print, tracked down in Italy, was battered and incomplete. Otherwise Gitt and Dayton had to make do with bits and pieces, a jigsaw that had to be assembled with no guarantee that all the pieces would exist, let alone fit.

It took them, on and off, three years. When the print was ready, they showed it to the director, Robert Maheu. The old man said it was one of the most wonderful afterthoughts of his life, like seeing a crippled child made whole again.

Gitt and Dayton have since turned their talents to *The Toll of the Sea*, made in 1922 and the first successful application of the pioneering Technicolor process based on two colours instead of three.

## An old camera was used to simulate a screen suicide

Again, no prints existed but there was a negative, albeit shrunk, scratched and very worn. Missing was the vital last few minutes in which the heroine, (Anna May Wong) commits suicide by walking out into the Pacific Ocean.

Copying the negative was such a complicated and expensive operation that restoring *The Toll of the Sea* was almost as expensive in relation to the length of the film as *Becky Sharp*. To simulate the ending, Gitt and Dayton got hold of an old two-colour Technicolor camera and shot footage of the Pacific at the precise spot where Anna May Wong had suffered her screen demise.

The latest contribution of the National Film Archive in Britain to the surge of restoration is a new print of Michael Powell's *Gone to Earth*. Powell, a sprightly 80-year-old, will be in the audience for Sunday's showing.

## Peter Waymark

*Gone to Earth* is showing at the Lumiere Cinema; *Becky Sharp* and *The Toll of the Sea* are also showing on Sunday, at the National Film Theatre.

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## The long climb of the law

How 15 policemen are preparing for the Himalayas

At a time when the courage of Britain's police officers is being increasingly put to the test, a group of London policemen are preparing to risk their lives on a perilous expedition to the unexplored regions of the Himalayas.

The team of 15 Metropolitan Police officers will climb alongside five Indian policemen in an effort "to help officers to understand and work with the Asian communities in this country".

A veteran climber himself, Peck advertised in the Metropolitan Police force's newspaper, *The Job*, for experienced climbers to join the six-week expedition. It is costing £1,000 a head and will arrive in India in the post-monsoon period next September.

He selected 20 of the 25 men who replied to go on a trial run to the French Alps earlier this year to test their aptitude, stamina and ability to work as a team.

John Peck has made a point of warning his team of the potential hazards which they may encounter on the 21,000 foot Himalayan climb—mainly

those caused by avalanches, rock falls and bad weather. "It has been estimated that one in eight climbers on a major Himalayan expedition gets killed and I wanted everyone to be aware of the dangers."

A married man with three small sons himself, Peck admits that he finds it hard to justify his obsession with climbing. "When I come back from an expedition I feel I'm totally in control. This is a stressful job and climbing is my release."

The expedition plans to attempt three peaks, one of which is unclimbed and unnamed, and Jogan I and Jogan II which have been climbed only once or twice before. They also hope to attempt the unclimbed and difficult East Ridge and the traverse between the two peaks.

The team, whose ages range from 18 to 45, come from a cross-section of backgrounds and ranks including both uniformed constables and members of the CID.

One of them, PC Tony Dawson, 25, a graduate in politics and economics from Magdalen College, Oxford, admits that he used to be petrified of heights to the extent that he had to be talked over the 15ft wall-bars in the gym at the police college in Hendon.

"I'm still a bit nervous about

standing on the edge of cliffs," admits Dawson, "but it's all part of the fun of it. When you've only got two non-existent handholds, the fear is all that actually gets you up."

John Peck believes that the venture will be good for morale

within the police force. "Climbers rely very heavily upon each other and when you actually finish a climb you feel this unique sense of bonding within the group."

Sally Brompton

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 801)

ACROSS	Down (6)	7 Tack maker (7)	17 Infuse (7)
1 Loose (6)	8 Brown (6)	13 Mother (3)	18 Winged horse (7)
2 Neither (3)	9 Flower (6)	15 Fire setter (7)	20 Anvil (5)
3 Rower (7)	10 Ruler (6)	16 East Germany (1.1.1)	21 Desert clearing (5)
4 Pointers (7)	11 Pal (4)		22 Solo worker (5)
5 Well done (5)	12 English Parliamentarian leader (8)		
6 Permil (5)	14 Meats (6)		
	15 Bring in (6)		
	16 Vicinity (8)		
	17 Impertinence (4)		
	18 Punishment stand (6)		
	19 Mad (6)		
	20 Sick (3)		
	21 Critical situation (6)		
	22 Sheen (6)		
	23 Rotting vegetation (5)		
	24 Rower (7)		
	25 Fire setter (7)		
	26 Well done (5)		
	27 Permil (5)		
	28 Tack maker (7)		
	29 Mother (3)		
	30 Fire setter (7)		
	31 East Germany (1.1.1)		
	32 Solo worker (5)		

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## SATURDAY

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The last of a three-part series on love, sex and marriage in Britain

# New rules in the mating game

Sex is all around us, on television and in our magazines. But what effect does this have on our relationships? Laurie Taylor looks at behaviour in the modern bedroom

Any one inclined to regard the increases in divorce, abortion, one-parent families and co-habitation as signs of moral decay may also view them as products of the excessive emphasis now being placed on sexual gratification. And this is a charge no longer levelled solely at the libidinous male.

In the past decade the subject of women's sexuality, their capacity to enjoy sex as much as men, has dominated women's magazines to such an extent that one recently-appointed editor was rumoured to have announced a six-month embargo on the phrase "multiple orgasm".

But what difference has the writing and talking made to behaviour? In 1984, MORI asked women under 45 how often they had sexual intercourse. Four per cent said once a day, 9 per cent five times a week, 13 per cent four times a week, 26 per cent three times a week. A total of 69 per cent of women are having sex at least once a week. Nine per cent are having sex less than once a month and only 4 per cent of women cohabiting with a man have stopped having sex.

Not only is there apparently greater sexual activity among women but it is also starting at a younger age. In the MORI survey, 23 per cent of the women had had intercourse by the age of 17, and 64 per cent by 21. Neither did there seem much concern about this, with 68 per cent of women now in favour of pre-marital sex for women, only a slightly higher number feeling that this is appropriate for men.

The only reservation that needs to be made about this relatively cavalier attitude to virginity comes from a more recent poll of 16-year-old girls. When those attending independent schools were asked if they would have sex before marriage, roughly three-quarters agreed that they would. But when the same girls were asked if they wanted to be virgins when they married, nearly half also said yes.

In the case of this group at least, there still appears to be a difference between what women expect their sexual conduct to be and what they wish it to be.

Do women enjoy sex as much as men? The MORI poll certainly suggested that they did: 70 per cent of the women said they enjoyed sex as much as men. But although the young women in a discussion group

conducted by The Research Business spoke frankly about liking sex, they were less ready to agree that their sexual appetites and desires were the same as those of men.

Karen (21): "A man never tires, does he? He seems to be at it all the time but a woman seems to have times when it doesn't interest her."

Susie (23): "They're like animals sometimes. They can't control their sex urges."

Some single women seemed almost envious of the male appetite. Kate (22): "I wish I could have their sexual urge. Once he's started I can enjoy it, but I can't help thinking at the beginning, 'Oh, here we go again'."

Some married women were actively concerned with discovering techniques to curb their husbands' enthusiasm. Hilary (22): "I pretend that I'm asleep." Anna (24): "I say, 'I'll just wash up before I go to bed. And I make sure there's always something lying around for me to wash up.'"

Veronica (23): "I sometimes wear something really horrible. Hilary: "I don't think they care all that much what you look like. Maggie (23): "Mine wants sex every night. So if I say 'no' every other night, it doesn't seem too rude and it means I'm getting away with a good deal."

Alison Clegg, who is in charge of the Marriage Guidance Council's training programme for sex therapists, gives one extreme example of the cautionary tactics adopted by unwilling wives: "I worked with one client who was afraid to admit that she had

**A high rate for sex used to be three times a week. Now this is average.**

had a nice day to her husband when he came home from work because she thought this meant he was going to think 'Nice day, good mood, perhaps she'd be willing to have sex'."

Once the husband has proposed sex, there is not much that many women feel they can do about it. Their protests have to be silent.

Anna: "They'll die if you say clearly that you're not interested. They take it as a terrible insult."

Hilary: "You find yourself looking at the lampshade and thinking 'Oh look - a lampshade!'"

Anna: "I once started reading a book over his shoulder."

It all seems a far cry from the first flush of married love, a situation



succinctly described by Caroline: "It's funny how everything changes. Tragic in a way. When I first married him I used to take a Panadol in case I got a headache."

Before marriage the sex relationship is unlikely to be ritualized to anything like the same extent, and single men seem to need even more reassurance about their performance.

Liz (22): "It's a good thing you can fake it and they can't." Ann-Marie: "You have to be really alert to find out exactly what she wants."

Men may have traditionally taken a lack of interest to mean that women's sexual nature was more passive and restrained. But there has been enough publicity about women's sexuality in recent years to dispel this view. If they seem less interested, then the modern male is likely to suspect that repression is at work.

David (24): "They won't say what they want. You have to sue it out for yourself. Look for clues. You have to be really alert to find out exactly what she wants."

Hugh (21): "You always feel that the Victorian era is at the back of their minds. They're still not quite sure if they should be doing it."

Although it's possible to view a new-found male concern with the woman's pleasure as an agreeable

alternative to more macho, boorish behaviour, it was often described in somewhat automatic terms.

But women did not complain that sex was too mechanical or too manipulated: it was just too frequent.

This was rarely a complaint from women at the very beginning of the relationship. At this stage there was

**Women begin to enjoy sex as their partner's interest starts to fade**

complete agreement between those like Caroline (who took Panadol in case she got a headache) and the man who announced:

"The first couple of months are ridiculous. You do it everywhere. Any opportunity you get. But now it's not like that. I still try, but she won't. I don't know what's happened."

In his book *More Joy of Sex* Alex Comfort tackles this decline in female desire by citing the importance of exhaustion in women. Men "find furious sex invigorating... but women do get genuinely exhausted, not least if, as is happening in our culture, they're expected to do two jobs, one domestic and one other. Women don't respond well sexually

when tired, aren't easily able to get an orgasm then. If they do, it has a far more sedative effect than in men."

There is perhaps an additional explanation, which could not have been expected to show up in our poll or discussion groups - directed as they were, primarily at young men and women. This explanation, described by Philip Knightley in his report on the 1984 MORI poll as "one of the great ironies of sexual life", depends upon the fact that although women typically enter marriage (and, one might add, extra-marital relationships) with high sexual hopes, they soon suffer disillusionment.

Nearly a quarter go so far as to say at this period that they do not now care about sex. But after six years of marriage the poll found that for the first time women were beginning to say that they enjoyed sex more than men. In short, it looks as if women are just beginning to enjoy their full sex potential when, according to the research of Dr Kinsey and others, their partner's interest in sex is in rapid decline.

This situation could itself now be changing. Kinsey was writing long before the keep-fit boom arrived, offering renewal not only of the body but the libido of the middle-aged. What, then, was the attitude of the permissive young people in our sample to evidence suggesting that their father might be getting a sexual second wind? Not entirely favourable.

Amanda (21): "My father's been rejuvenated. He started jogging two years ago. He's so fit, it's incredible. He's lost his tummy that he had from drink. He's a health addict. And he just thinks he's Mr Wonderful now. Flexing his muscles. I can't talk to him any more because I don't really like it when he's around me. I feel he's looking at me sometimes. I know he's probably not but I feel it. I think 'Oh God, my dad's going to be a lover boy all over again!'"

But whatever difficulties Amanda may be having with her father's borsage sexuality, it is unlikely that she will greatly disagree with him (or with her mother) over such matters as living together, divorce, abortion, or extra-marital affairs. All the evidence from the Gallup Poll and from our discussion groups suggests that when it comes to sexual attitudes, there is no longer any very significant generation gap between 40 to 45-year-old parents and their grown-up children.

This raises serious difficulties (as do most of the findings reported in the last three articles) for those commentators who detect signs among the young of a revolt against the "permissive parenthood" of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and a wish to return to "tried and trusted values". Not that mere evidence is ever likely to inhibit the enthusiasm of those who deal in such seductive categories.

The author is Professor of Sociology at York University.

## Why winter winds are best avoided



The chilly winter weather may be responsible for about 20,000 of the 250,000 deaths per year from heart attack or stroke, research at the London Hospital Medical College suggests.

Professor William Keatinge, the research co-ordinator and professor of physiology, says even mild exposure to the cold can cause changes in the blood which make it more likely to clot and cause a thrombosis.

When a group of young healthy adults were exposed to a slight breeze at room temperature for a period of six hours their blood pressure increased. Factors which raise the general stickiness of the blood also increased: cholesterol levels, the concentration of red blood cells, and the number and size of the platelets in the blood.

This thickening of the blood would, the professor says, put anyone with furred-up arteries at risk - many middle-aged as well as elderly people.

The cold exposure the young volunteers faced was relatively mild, the equivalent of a winter afternoon spent watching the football or a walk in the cold. Even so the magnitude of the changes was enough to explain the 15 per cent jump in heart attacks and strokes seen in most British winters.

The danger may not come from simply a long exposure to cold; a shorter but more severe exposure may be just as damaging, says Professor Keatinge.

**Nurses at risk from cancer therapy**  
Occupational health specialists have been concerned for some time about the potential dangers to nurses, doctors and pharmacists who face when handling anti-cancer drugs.

These drugs are invaluable in cancer therapy but, because of their cell-killing properties can be damaging to an otherwise healthy person. Now some of the worst fears have been realized. A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* of nurses working in Finnish hospitals, has shown that nurses who handle cytotoxic drugs in early pregnancy run twice the risk of losing their babies.

In the UK, the Royal College of Nursing already recommends that pregnant women do not reconstitute or prepare cytotoxic drugs - the time when exposure is greatest - although it does not advise against administering them.

**Science backs an old wives' remedy**  
Evening primrose oil is not just an old wives' remedy for the pre-menstrual syndrome, but an increasingly respected weapon against the symptoms of the condition.

Dr Michael Brush, of the Department of Gynaecology at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London, has just written a leaflet for the charity Women's Health Concern, outlining suitable doses, and its appropriate use.

Evening primrose oil is rich in gamma-linolenic acid, an essential fatty acid in the metabolism of some prostaglandins, for which there is no other significant natural source.

Dr Brush says mood changes, food cravings and breast engorgement are all improved by evening primrose oil, although feelings of bloatedness are less well relieved.

The oil does not work for everyone but a leaflet can be obtained free from the RHC Flax, 17 Earls Terrace, London W8 6LP (see essential).

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

**Double sorrow of losing a twin**

Losing a baby can be a devastating experience for parents. But the impact of losing one of twins can last for years.

Friends, doctors and midwives will try to console by ignoring the death and over-congratulating the parents on the existence of the other child. "Never mind, you have another baby after all", is not an uncommon response.

But, according to Dr Elizabeth Bryan, paediatric adviser to the Twins and Multiple Births Association (TAMBA), this leads to bitterness and resentment. Parents are not given the chance to grieve properly and by concentrating on the living baby they can begin to reject it as the child turns out to be a reminder of what they have lost.

TAMBA runs a self-help group for parents and publishes a leaflet (30p + A5 sac) from Pooch Corner, 54 Broad Lane, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3BG.

**Science backs an old wives' remedy**

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Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

## Fashion crusade against the Red squares

Raisa Gorbachov's dress designer is giving Soviet clothes new life, writes Julia Owen

One valuable ally in Mikhail Gorbachov's pre-summit "Charm Wars" has been his wife Raisa. Last month her elegance took Paris by storm. While her husband faced reporters' questions on arms control and dissidents, she was photographed arm-in-arm with Yves St Laurent, held business talks with Pierre Cardin and visited other French fashion houses and art galleries.

When the Soviet and American leaders meet in Geneva, Mrs Gorbachov and Mrs Reagan will be holding a first ladies' summit. And with Raisa will go the hopes of a small band of men and women who have long dreamt of transforming Soviet fashion into something like its Western counterpart.

One man in particular will be keeping a close watch on Geneva: the leading Soviet fashion designer Slava Zaitsev, who designs Mrs Gorbachov's clothes.

The exposure of the Gorbachovs to the West is a boon to his personal crusade, and though Raisa protested that she did not look her best pictured next to Cardin's glamorous models, she was a credit to the man who dresses her. She emerged from Yves St Laurent's Paris salon bearing samples of Laurent's Opium perfume. Even her husband bought flashy new French loafers shoes, although he forgot to remove the price label on the soles.

High fashion might seem an unlikely public pre-occupation for a Soviet leader's wife, albeit a glamorous high-profile one. Marxist-Leninist ideology comes down rather heavily on the side of women being more like men. Fashion is frivolous, and nothing in the Soviet empire is remotely frivolous. Women mend roads until they are seven months pregnant, women queue for food on average three hours a day until their legs ripple with varicose veins and stretch bandages.

You can't just go out and buy a dress in Moscow. There are no boutiques in the Western sense. The G.U.M., referred to as a department store (with which



Soviet chic: Slava Zaitsev's new-look for Russian women

Glenys Kinnock claimed to be particularly impressed), is, in fact, a covered bazaar on one corner of Red Square full of Tadjik ladies fighting over bales of gaudy synthetic fabrics and soldiers buying stick-on campaign stripes and medals.

If you want a new dress for the office party you go to an atelier, one of the countless tiny dressmakers' shops in Moscow back streets. Few people are lucky enough to have their own sewing machines, although a few ancient Singer machines are still going strong (before the 1917 Revolution Singer had



Crusader: Slava Zaitsev

palatial showrooms in Leninograd). Even zip fasteners are relatively hard to find, at least in the colour you want. And natural fibres are almost unobtainable. Russia, one of the world's greatest cotton (and silk) producing nations, has arguably the finest and most comfortably dressed, armed forces in the world. Everybody else has to wear nylon.

The final thing you need is a pattern. For five roubles you can attend the fashion shows at the All-Union Fashion House and select a design from the procession of outfits shown by a team of models. After the show, for another rouble, you take your pick. Then it's back to the atelier and a long wait.

Slava Zaitsev has given Russian women a new vision of themselves from his new, profit-making, Moscow fashion house. Dom Modi is a plate glass building on Prospekt Mira, one of Moscow's major thoroughfares, with real Bond Street window displays (you could walk past the average Russian shop and never realize it was there), a ground floor boutique where you can buy beautiful

designs off the peg, and a marble staircase leading up to the immense modern showroom.

On Wednesday at 5pm Slava holds open house for the ladies of Moscow. It is not quite like a Western fashion show, but Pierre Cardin has never had to stand at the microphone urging his audience to try to find shoes that match their outfits and to at least make the resolution to spend an extra half hour in the bathroom in the morning making themselves more attractive. (This ignores the fact that many Russian families have shared bathrooms - and kitchens - in communal apartments.)

Most of the tired, overweight lady workers who make up the audience seem affronted or perplexed at first, but at the end of the show they pour into the boutique to begin the transformation.

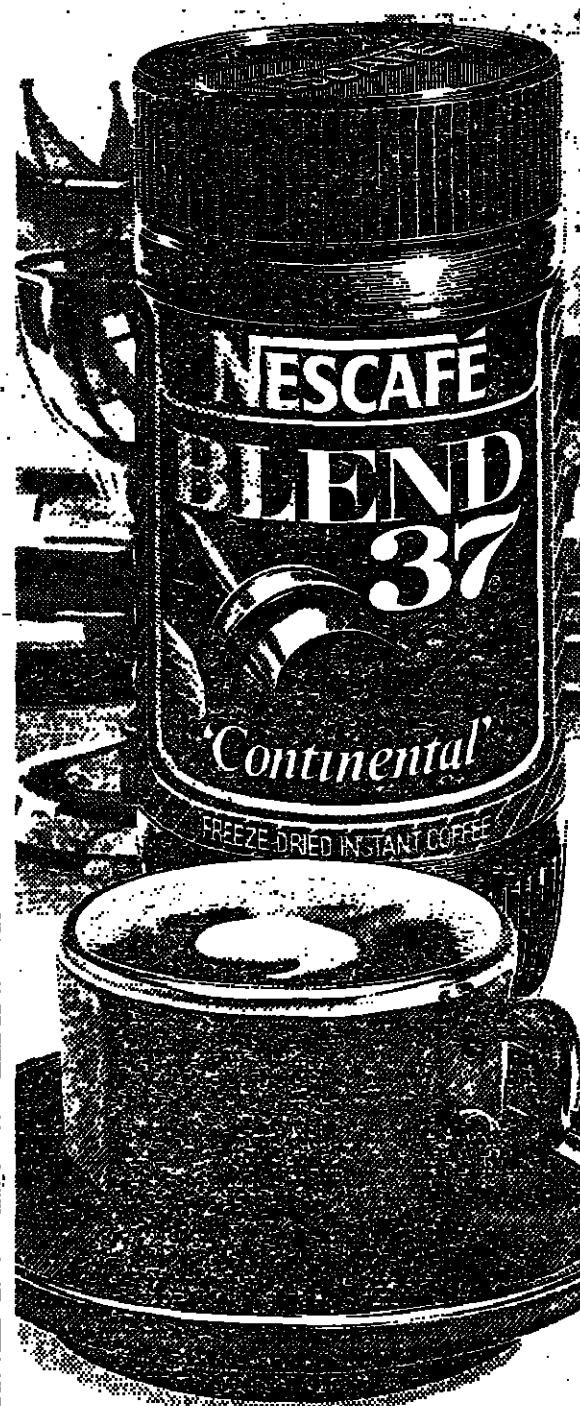
The fashions are not cheap, with embroidered coats selling at 600 roubles (equivalent to three months' wages). But the day dresses, raincoats and beachwear are well within the range of ordinary office workers.

After the show Zaitsev invited me to one of the regular literary evenings at his elegant house. White linen curtains tugged in the breeze, vases of tulips graced the pale tablecloths as Slava held court over a gathering of artistic young men who had bought their poems, paintings, even experimental cine films, for his inspection. These young men are his apostles against the drab shoddiness of today's Soviet Communism.

"Design for me is not just a question of selling clothes successfully," he said. "It is the wider concept of design, environment and even mentality. That is what Russia has lacked."

Down on Kalinin Prospekt, not a hundred yards from Zaitsev's house, the ladies' underwear department of a large store was still showing the reality for Soviet womanhood. Rows of massive peach-coloured whalebone bras lined a long counter, cups upward and decorated coyly with tiny pink bows. Crash barriers had been erected around the coat department where a new consignment of simulated fur jackets had just arrived from the West selling at 200 roubles, a month's salary. Zaitsev has his work cut out.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### M'Bow of courtesy

The long-scheduled visit here next week of the Unesco director-general, Amadou M'Bow, was seriously jeopardized, I gather, by the way arrangements have been handled at the British end by the world affairs monitoring group PACE. Unesco officials are upset by a PACE press release suggesting that M'Bow is coming to make a last-minute appeal to the British government not to withdraw from the organization at the end of the year. "There's no truth in that," says a Unesco source. "He was invited to London months ago to address an international parliamentary group that follows the affairs of the UN. He's not going to appeal to anyone." PACE had also - without M'Bow's agreement - arranged for him to address a news conference at the beginning of his programme. M'Bow strongly objected to this, believing it would be discourteous to do so before meeting the politicians. The visit was only saved when PACE director George Cunningham cancelled the press conference yesterday and arranged instead a press briefing by Unesco officials.

### Co-op coup

Another defeat for Liverpool's caring Militant city council. It has just lost its fight to prevent 145 new homes being built, at no expense to itself, in one of the city's most blighted areas. The scheme is a housing co-operative - to which Militant is ideologically opposed. Its backers, who have secured £4.3 million of social housing money, are the Eldonian Community Association of Vauxhall, the district where the ward Labour party has rebelled against Militant. No one was surprised, therefore, when the council rejected the scheme on planning grounds in March. The association appealed. Environment Secretary Kenneth Baker has just reversed the decision. "The people haven't been sober since," says the association's chairman, Tony McGann.

### Half-baked

The son of Tom Allinson, the brown bread baker immortalized by the "nowt taken out" TV campaign, has had enough. On Radio 4's *Food Programme* today, nonagenarian Cyril Allinson attacks his father's caricature: "I think it's dreadful. He didn't talk like that at all." The ad man's Allinson, a crusty Yorkshire farmworker, could not be more misleading, he says. The original was college-educated, a doctor of medicine - and came from Lancashire.

### Universally sexist

Women MPs have tabled a motion objecting to the use of the Commons by Miss World contestants. The competition "reinforces the idea that what matters most about a woman is what she looks like," they say. Confirmed bachelor MP Charles Irving has added an amendment. In view of equal opportunities and sex discrimination, he requests that "the House shall have a choice and Mr Universe be invited next year".

### Over the top

Small wonder the government finds it hard to cut public spending. According to the latest Treasury estimates, the Cabinet office was targeted to spend £3.9 million in the first six months of 1985 and actually spent £6 million. On rates for government properties, the Treasury aimed to spend £48 million but actually spent £85 million. Both, perhaps, could learn from the trustees of the National Gallery. Targeted at £4.8 million, they spent a mere £2.4 million.

BARRY FANTONI



"You realize what this could do to our reputation!"

### Pound of flesh

Furious at the Government's Anglo-Irish deal, 10 Ulster Unionist MPs voted blindly for the Alliance amendment to the Queen's Speech on Wednesday night. This had a curious corollary. Enoch Powell, the man whose implacable opposition to the Common Market led to his famous defection from the Tories in 1974, found himself voting for a proposal that sterling should enter the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary Fund.

### Tourist whirl

What were 56 Americans doing crowded into a laundrette in Forth Street, west London, yesterday, clicking cameras at the front-loaders, tumble-driers and bemused customers? They were delegates from the Coin Laundry Association of the United States, here - in the words of their president, Frank Vitke - "to experience the British coin-op scene".

PHS

# Geneva: Gorbachov's empty hand

by David Hart

Mikhail Gorbachov should be laughing all the way to Geneva. He has nothing to lose and everything to gain at the summit with Ronald Reagan. By contrast Reagan has much to lose and nothing, except possibly some applause from western public opinion, to gain, unless Gorbachov will agree to genuine and balanced arms reductions - which on present form seems unlikely.

In all respects except military, the Soviet Union has already lost the competition with America and therefore its true claim to superpower status. Such status has been awarded to it by western public opinion largely in response to the fearsome shadow of Soviet military power. This fear has had a profound effect on western policy, and the event of its removal is what the Strategic Defence Initiative is intended partly to do, would be just as profound.

After more than 60 years of communism Soviet economic performance is now acknowledged to be lamentable, even by Gorbachov.

The standard of living for the majority of the Soviet population is barely increasing. There are shortages of the most simple foodstuffs, an extraordinary decline in Soviet life expectancy, an increase in the incidence of certain diseases.

Most Americans regard most other Americans as belonging to the same nation whatever their nationality of origin, their creed or their colour. The Russians, who make up the greater part of the

ruling class in the Soviet Union, do not regard other races in the same way at all.

The Russian ruling class fears, if present demographic trends continue, that there will not be enough of them to maintain control. It has manifested this fear, among other ways, by purging its important military forces of all non-Russian races, even though some of them are generally more technically competent, for example the Jews.

Perhaps most important of all, a Soviet society whose leaders can survive only by ruthless central control of the content and flow of information is facing a West that is beginning to reap the incalculable benefits of the information revolution - a revolution that may well be seen by historians as the most benign technological development since the 19th century.

However much Gorbachov may genuinely want an improvement in living standards for his people, the Marxist system that has created him is quite unable to accommodate the political relaxation necessary for real economic growth, or the creation of an information revolution, and remain recognizably the same.

Reagan goes to Geneva with several disadvantages. That the summit is taking place at all is a great propaganda coup for Gorbachov. It wrong-foots Reagan because it tends to confirm the Russians'

contention that they are to be considered entirely equal to the Americans by western public opinion.

And Reagan has much to lose. He could be forced by Gorbachov's continuing skillful exploitation of western public opinion into shelving SDI. He could be forced into abandoning any attempt to modernize America's strategic forces, which are ancient compared to the Soviets, and which Congress is increasingly reluctant to fund. Such abandonment would lead to increasing instability and so increasing fear of the Soviet Union.

An agreement for genuine, balanced and verifiable arms reductions would be excellent but is looking increasingly unlikely, as the Americans are beginning to signal.

Those western commentators who are asking if the Americans and the Soviets will reach some kind of arms agreement in Geneva are asking the wrong question. Instead, they should ask if Gorbachov will succeed in limiting American SDI or American strategic arms so much that the Soviet Union can retain superpower status through rough military equivalence.

If this happens, the discomforts of the East-West competition are likely to continue for many years to come. The Soviet Union will increasingly realize that in order to compete effectively with the West it must

either change its political system or manage to sap the political will of the West, with adventures such as Afghanistan and with the psychological assault that fear of Soviet arms engenders, so that the West too experiences political, social and economic decline.

If Reagan emerges from the summit having captured the high moral ground with an acceptance of his unprecedented offer to share SDI, Gorbachov will be forced, over the next decade or so, to choose one of two paths.

He can watch his country fade into secondary status in a world where no nation any longer has the ability to threaten to strike any other nation with nuclear ballistic missiles, because all countries will be protected by SDI from most of the effects of a full-scale attack. Or he can begin the fundamental changes to the political system in the Soviet Union that would permit the free flow of ideas, information and capitalist activity that alone could create the economic growth necessary to superpower status and genuine competition with America.

Westerners should hope that Gorbachov accepts Reagan's offer on SDI. Sensible westerners should go even further and make it clear that they would welcome genuine cultural and economic competition with the Soviet Union. For competition, in the long term, has never done anything but good, for both nations and individuals.

## Jim McCue on the woes of a once-revered centre of English excellence

### The Cambridge faculty of musical chairs



MacCabe: after his much-publicized exit, a sourness



Kermode: a contentious view of what literature is

criticism are bourgeois dupes, etc. But people soon got bored with that, and you can see why, because if all that were true, then we wouldn't be doing anything, and if we're not doing anything, then what claim have we to grants and salaries?"

In treating literary criticism not as the common pursuit but as a trivial pursuit, some theorists have become so self-effacing as to lose their heads completely.

Meanwhile, students are arriving less and less prepared for Cambridge life, socially and academically. They are widely considered less independent-minded and more fashion-conscious than before. Pressure to get a good degree and job encourages conformity, and many hope to be able to premeditated answers. With the abolition of the Cambridge entrance exam that used to be taken in a seventh term in the sixth form,

reading than ever. One don asked: "If academic disciplines die in the state secondary system, how can they survive in the universities?" and went on to suggest that academic English has had its day. Certainly the gap between A-levels and the beginning of study for a PhD seems wider than one could hope to span in three years. With many dons believing in the subject, and many students who don't care about it, there is apparently less reading than ever being done.

After the MacCabe affair, the university's vice-chancellor chaired a committee which tried to rationalize English teaching by agreeing a core of texts on which lectures would be given. The committee wanted to curtail the absurdly wasteful lecture system, which rarely corresponds to undergraduates' weekly work. More than 1,000 lectures are given annually for 660 undergraduates, and some are attended by only one or two people.

Ricks (Kermode's successor as Edward VII professor) wanted to introduce a syllabus, ensuring that lectures were of specific interest, and that students of, for example, the novel, had a common grounding in literature, rather than having their heads in clouds of theory. But some of his colleagues challenge any canon of writers and want to move away from author-centred study. The proposals were rejected.

Attempts at reform failed partly because the press had polarized the faculty. The majority of "traditionalists" resisted change out of fear of a minority of "progressives" (whom the press erroneously called "structuralists"). Ricks's proposals were practical rather than theoretical, yet they were vitiated by disagreements and compromises over what should be taught and how.

Reform was made still more difficult by overlapping faculty committees and by the collegiate system. Because there are comparatively few teachers in the faculty itself, the colleges employ many supervisors who do not and may never hold such posts. Inevitably, they guard their independence, and teaching varies considerably from college to college. Trinity, with 50 or so undergraduates reading English and three tutors in the subject, is virtually a faculty unto itself, while at Insular Pembroke, the MacCabe affair was not "a major matter, at any time". While colleges offer such variable and sometimes narrow teaching, it may be that lectures and classes are the only way to provide choice and width.

Ricks has recently announced his resignation from the end of this academic year, after the shortest-ever tenure of the senior chair. There have been only five Edward VII professors since the chair was instituted in 1912: for those to resign within four years reinforces the feeling that there is something amiss.

A concerted approach to the West: a strategy of hooking new credits from West Germany (perhaps even Britain) and of preparing for membership of the International Monetary Fund.

But what if the credits do not start to flow, what if Poland cannot meet IMF requirements? No amount of reshuffling will change this. Bankers react, at least in Poland's case, to the hard figures and not to image making.

By the same token, there is a response, a popular discontent about the quality of life. Ministers have been sacked or shifted from the departments of building, education, health and youth. But personnel changes will not end a situation where young couples have to wait 15 years for an apartment and divorced couples have to live together for 10 years for lack of a second flat. Real solutions to real problems - say, privatizing building or pouring in huge investments - are not ideologically or financially possible for this government.

So the merry-go-round of despair (new faces, old problems, admission of defeat, new faces) continues. Under the circumstances the Roman approach has its attractions: the regular humiliation of ministers is at least a amusing diversion for a jaded populace.

Roger Boyes

David Watt

## Can our prisons take any more?

A great deal has been written and said about the political pay-offs of the government's law-and-order crusade. Not much has been said about the practical implications for the police, and absolutely nothing about the consequences at the real end of the line, the prison system.

Even on the most optimistic theory of deterrence and the most pessimistic view of policing, more law and order is going to mean more men and women in jail. There is a real question of how, and perhaps even whether, we can cope with this. Some time ago I wrote a few years as a member of the board of visitors of a London prison. The experience convinced me that our prisons were a monument to years of neglect, and that if governments did not take some radical, and probably very expensive, decisions the problem would explode in a way that could not be concealed. The dilapidated 19th-century buildings were probably worse in my own prison than in most others, but not so much worse that one could not recognize a national scandal when one saw it.

The conditions I witnessed were not only objectionable on general humanitarian grounds, but made any serious work towards rehabilitation virtually impossible. At the very best, a regime could only have the negative virtues of the Victorian army seen from the ranks - strict discipline, rough justice, intermittent discomfort, stupefying boredom, and a certain amount of companionship in misfortune, all without the military sense of purpose or the consolation of drink and sex. At worst it is simply a sink of despair and misery.

To do the present government justice, they have recognized there was a crisis. They have reacted, under successive home secretaries, in the only possible way by building prisons, by altering sentencing policy, and by trying to modernize internal prison rules. The trouble is that the political importance of the law and order issue and an increase in crime have combined to defeat these good intentions. A creditable programme of prison building and an attempt to reduce the amount of incarceration for minor offences have already been overtaken by other factors, including heavier sentencing for more serious crimes.

The net result is that, according to the most plausible forecasts, the prison population is doomed to increase faster than the number of new places. With a fresh blitz on crime about to take place, there is therefore no relief from the proposition that the physical situation in many prisons is bound to deteriorate from an already dismal level.

This fact puts even greater weight on the other leg of the tripod - the internal running of the prison system. Anyone who has worked in prisons knows that overcrowding and shortage of prison officers are the worst enemies of a civilized and constructive regime. If there are not enough staff to run workshops and recreation facilities, there is nothing for it but to lock up prisoners in their cells for long periods. Boredom and claustrophobia breed trouble, trouble creates defensiveness and

bad temper among the officers, which in turn breeds more hostility among the prisoners. Prison riots are caused by this sort of vicious circle, but there is also a constant, demoralizing strain on a prison's disciplinary system.

Such strains actually caused the government last year to set up the inquiry on prison discipline under Peter Prior, the former chairman of Bulmer's, whose committee has just produced its report. So far as it goes, this is an admirable document. Its central proposal ought to have been carried out ages ago - namely to put the trial and punishment of most serious offences against prison rules in the hands of a special panel of lawyers to be called the Prison Disciplinary Tribunal.

At the moment punishment - the removal of privileges and the loss of remission - is meted out by the prison governor for minor offences and by the board of visitors for more serious ones. These boards, made up of laymen appointed by the home secretary, find themselves in effect conducting mini-trials and quite often sentencing prisoners to up to an extra six months in jail.

It is legal objections to such summary proceedings which have brought them into question. To my mind, however, what is really objectionable is the fact that the board of visitors is also responsible, on behalf of the public, for watching over the welfare of inmates and staff. This watchdog role includes inspecting the prison and hearing complaints and applications from prisoners, as a defence against injustice and inefficiency.

This two-hatted arrangement has the merit of being cheap, and of ensuring that the people who have to sit in judgement at least have some knowledge of local conditions. But it has two overriding drawbacks. The first is that boards of visitors are part-time volunteers, and it is extremely difficult to give enough time and attention to the watchdog role.

The second problem is that it is virtually impossible for a prisoner to believe that the people who have just lined up on the side of the establishment to dock him for three weeks' remission are likely to do their best for him when he asks them to find out why a transfer, promised more than a year ago to a prison where his wife can visit him without having to travel 200 miles, has still not taken place. What is more, he may have a point. Boards of visitors do their best but they may naturally look at prison life first with the eyes of people who want the system to run smoothly, and only second with the eyes of a prisoner.

The Prison Committee's solution will cost money; barristers and solicitors come expensive. But it should ease some of the problems and release boards to take a more active part in defusing the explosive difficulties that further overcrowding will surely cause.

The government should spend vastly more on putting prisons on to a civilized, modern footing. But since that is evidently thought to be too expensive, the system as it stands should be better able to take the strain.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Discomposed by Hurricane Hans

I was sorry to hear of the death of Hans Keller. I only met him the

once, and got into an argument with him about music, but I shall remember the feeling of being exposed to his mind until the day I die. It was rather like standing in a wind colder than you have ever imagined, or swimming against a current which is flowing faster than you can possibly swim; exhilarating, but deadly. I survived, and have kept out of such arguments ever since.

(Hans Keller would have disapproved of my opening paragraph. He wrote me a short letter after our meeting, saying that I had a dreadful tendency to argue by analogy. There are other ways of arguing, he said, and I should find them out and use them. I replied, saying that he was too late for that. He wrote me an even shorter letter, criticising me heavily for not using my post code.)

It all started 15 years or so ago, when I had been made literary editor of *Punch*. That sounds impressive until you realize that William Davis, the new editor, had cut the book pages down to one and wished to cut them down to none. "This magazine is far too literary!" he would cry down the corridor, and I would prepare to defend the one remaining book page with my life. Looking back, mark you, I think he was right in many ways - too many words can kill humour - but I had no desire to become ex-literary editor of *Punch* too young.

One of the first books that came to me for review was called *The Business of Music* by Ernst Roth, who had been a big man in music publishing in Vienna in the 1930s, a champion of Schoenberg, Webern, and so on. He had fled to England and built himself a new career in music publishing, but on retiring had written this book, which was an account of his life, the people he had met and his thoughts on music. I knew nothing about him, of course. I merely glanced this information from the back of the book.

The book was shortly followed by an invitation to the launching of the book. I was flattered, if not overburdened. Being young, I said, I had no idea that all literary editors were asked to all the launchings of all books. This was the first launching I had ever been asked to, and I went with a leap and a bound. Not only that, but I read the book first, so that I could discuss it with the other people I met there,

who would doubtless have read it as well.

"Roth has some pretty interesting things to say about music," I said to my fellow guests. "I mean, his analysis of current composition is pretty devastating. That is to say, he has some rather piquant things to say about pop music as well. At least, his views on serialism are quite disturbing..."

My fellow guests thought I was mad. Not only had none of them read the book, they could not see the point of doing so. They were there for the party, and so was I the next time I went to a book launch. Which was pity, because Roth's book was very wise and had some trenchant things to say. He said, for instance, that young composers composed music the way they did because history forced them to, not because they wanted to; that pop music was raw emotion and new concert music was raw intellectuality, and that it was a tragic dichotomy. But as I never met anyone who had read Roth's book, it was hardly worth discussing it.

I merely adopted some of Roth's ideas and paraded them as my own. Until I met Hans Keller 12 years later, that is. For some time I was a Viennese music-lover like him, who would know Roth's book and be prepared to talk about it. Unfortunately, his views seemed to differ from those of Roth, and he laid into my vague restatement of them with all the enthusiasm of a customs officer who has just found a traveller innocently breaking all the import regulations known to man. The flood of his argument rose around me until I felt I was drowning and could see all my past arguments flash in front of me.

My puny intellect was being swept away by Hurricane Hans.

The next morning, when the flood waters had receded, I found myself still in possession of all Ernst Roth's ideas, intact, and I have gone on repeating them ever since. Ever since Hans Keller's treatment, I have also gone on arguing by analogy, and I occasionally attend literary launches where I have never ever read the book being launched, and nor has anyone else.

I think Hans Keller would be pleased, however, to know that he changed my life in at least one respect. Since his last, short, pungent letter, I have always used my postcode. I have never regretted it.





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## LOW INFLATION LIFE

One single programme accounts for nearly one third of the Chancellor's new totals for public spending. Social security, whose annual cost will be nearly £50 billion before the end of the decade, is the largest element in government spending. It is also, right now, the least certain element. Several questions hang over the figures embodied in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, and some strong political nerve will be needed to resolve them.

Since the cost of social benefits is intimately related to the rate of inflation, the Chancellor's success in slowing price increases has important consequences. Next July, pensioners and others living on state benefits can expect increases of no more than 1 per cent; a mere 38p on the single pension, for example, a mere handful of pence on smaller allowances. This is because the July uprating will be based on price rises between last May and next January, the latest date at which the computers can start work; an eight-month period in which the rate of inflation was falling particularly sharply, and therefore the total rise in prices was particularly small.

So this minimal increase in benefits is justified; it will partly make up for the too large increase in benefits which will take place next week. This 1% handout will not, however, be politically popular. It will appear to be below the going rate of inflation, calculated in the normal way over the preceding 12 months. It will look mean.

The Government should not bow to political pressure to round up benefit increases to a more significant level. One of the consequences of living with low inflation is that all those who live on more-or-less indexed incomes must come to understand that their annual increases

will be marginal. It is a lesson we have not learnt yet in pay bargaining, where wages still ride well ahead of prices. It has to be learnt in social welfare, if the juggernaut of expenditure is ever to be slowed down.

The political agreement over these increases will inevitably become entangled with the debate over the future structure of social security, on which Mr Norman Fowler must shortly publish the white paper with which he has promised to provide illustrative figures. Mr Fowler is entering the second, dreary phase of reform, in which the weight of criticism seems sufficient to crush the enterprise. He must persevere. It will take substantial reform to keep within the Chancellor's targets for social security spending while directing resources towards the relief of real poverty.

There is, however, evidence that Mr Fowler is capable of sensible adjustment in his change of tack on pensions. Originally, the Government was determined to dismantle the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme, the product of bipartisan agreement in Parliament in the mid-1970s for which the bills have begun to mount in an alarming fashion.

But although, if the Government had been starting from scratch, some quite different solution could have been found to the need to persuade or compel British people into adequate provision for their own old age, the Government did not of course have a clean slate. It found that it could not sensibly pretend that SERPS could simply be wiped out.

Its first public announcement, as part of Mr Fowler's social security review, was therefore an uneasy compromise. SERPS was to be "phased out", but in a way designed to give as little political

offence as possible; it was thus a highly expensive way. This earned Mr Fowler plenty of opposition (even from the pensions industry, which might have been supposed to benefit from a shift to private provision) without corresponding financial gain. There would have been little financial benefit until into the next century, and considerable short-term costs.

Now, therefore, the Government has decided instead to reform SERPS. This is the proper course. SERPS contains various bizarre elements, compared with a private pension scheme, which make it ridiculously expensive. Most of them followed the fashion of the 1970s, in over-compensating women for a short working life, without realizing how that working life was going to change. Some of these excesses can easily be scrapped off the structure of SERPS, yielding much quicker cost reductions than a slow phasing-out.

Although it will damp down some of the fires of protest, this course will not necessarily find public support. Inevitably, the reform of SERPS will cut back benefits people might have expected to receive. Much of the popularity of SERPS was naturally due to its extravagant elements; the economy model will not be so glamorous.

Mr Fowler therefore deserves support in this endeavour too. But he should be encouraged to look beyond SERPS to the development of a fuller and better combination of private and state provision, with proper flexibility between jobs and lifestyles, suitable for Britain at the end of the twentieth century. The reform of SERPS necessarily breaks the mould of political bipartisanship on pensions; the occasion should be taken to embrace new ideas.

## A DRIER DISRAELI

Disraeli is capable of being all things to all sections of the Conservative Party which he did so much to make a vehicle for democratic power. That is the fate of founding fathers. The great objectives perceived by original minds transcend the conflicting notions of how they should best be achieved.

Lately, however, Disraeli has been called in aid more often by Mrs Thatcher's Tory critics than by her adherents. His has been a name for the likes of Mr Peter Walker and Mr Francis Pym to conjure with. In face of this intellectual annexation, some of those most attached to the government's economic policies have seemed fearful of appealing to the original apostle of popular Toryism. That, of course, was always ridiculous. Mrs Thatcher, Disraeli, but Disraeli was not a Wet, and there is not the least reason to suppose that he would have been, had he been faced with the economic problems which have confronted Mrs Thatcher.

Equally, it is a caricature of Mrs Thatcher's kind of Conservatism to suppose that because it has had to give over-riding priority to economic matters, it is comparatively indifferent to wider social problems. Mr Norman Tebbit took an important step towards redressing the balance this week when he gave the first Disraeli lecture. By suggesting parallels between Disraeli's education of his country and his party to face and

initiate reforms, with some of the problems that confront the nation today, the new Tory chairman has re-claimed Queen Victoria's Prime Minister for the Conservative Party as a whole.

Mr Tebbit re-stated the Tory Party's attachment to economic freedom as the precondition of political liberty as well as of prosperity. But he also went much wider when he indicted "the politics of the permissive society" as leading to the violent society rather than to the civilized society with which Mr Roy Jenkins once equated it.

Offering his vision of Britain ten years hence, Mr Tebbit spoke of more than a society in which taxation was low, prices were stable, business was prosperous, and the old, the sick and the young were better cared for. He also envisaged a public "revolution against the valueless values of the permissive society" in which violence and pornography have been accepted and have been allowed to condition behaviour. There would, he thought, be a demand not only for stiffer sentences against criminals, but also for television producers to "think about the effects of what they broadcast upon impressionable people - and in the end it will happen."

Mr Tebbit may be right in his confidence. Pendulums do swing, and there are some signs of a swing in the moral pendulum now. But what Mr Tebbit did not say was that the government was prepared to do

anything to assist the people in what they want. There is widespread conviction, shared by the public, police and judges, that much of the growing violence in our society, not least the appalling increase in rape, is part of a wider culture in which violent pornography, and the nightly diet of television violence set examples that are followed.

Sophisticates will argue that because it is impossible to prove irrefutably a causal connection from the statistics, there are no grounds for action. That is not the commonsense view. Yet it appears that the government proposes no action but merely waits for the pendulum to swing. Successive Home Secretaries, whatever their private beliefs about the relationship between violent pornography and crime, have taken their stand on the position that there is no present parliamentary consensus for reforming the Obscene Publications law which is in many respects unworkable, and in any case is inapplicable to television which has no such restraints.

It is something the new Home Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd should think about. It was after all, the minority-induced legislation of the Sixties which made this law into an ass. It should not be too difficult now to legislate in a contrary direction, if (as Mr Tebbit thinks) that is what the majority wants, and without danger to freedom. He should have a talk with Mr Hurd about it.

## MR YOUNGER'S MISTAKE

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, is a very lucky man. Last Friday he wrote a letter to a member of the public confirming the go-ahead given by the Government for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries' bid for Matthew Brown, some four days before this was not officially announced. It was not until Tuesday that the Department of Trade and Industry informed Parliament of the view of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the bid should be allowed to proceed.

Mr Younger's letter was not, in fact responsible for the spate of leaks that permitted lucrative trading in Matthew Brown shares last week; Mr Jack Straw, who has raised the issue in Parliament, has now acknowledged this fully. Mr Younger neither benefited himself from prior knowledge, nor even inadvertently assisted anyone else to do so. His unfortunate letter was written on the Friday, and not received until after the weekend. By then, the surge in the price of Matthew Brown shares was over. It began well before Mr Younger put pen to paper; the information from wherever it came, was in the market by the middle

of last week, as reflected in *The Times's* own coverage. By Friday, the decision had been widely and confidently anticipated.

Thus the inquiry that the Department of Trade and Industry has now set up must look elsewhere for the disturbing leakage of confidential information. The Trade Secretary has no power to overturn a Monopolies Commission approval for a merger. Therefore the MMC report was as good as a Ministerial statement. It had been at the printers for some time and someone may well have had the opportunity to see it. Mr Younger's error, however, requires something more than the apology he has swiftly given.

It is fair to say that the announcement was generally expected on the Friday, and merely delayed until the Tuesday. Mr Younger admits he should have checked it had been made. So, indeed, he should. For such announcements fall into the narrow category of market-sensitive information around which the Government has always placed an electric fence. This question of market-sensitivity is

the justification for the extraordinary secrecy into which the Treasury retreats for the weeks before the Budget.

This is no recent tradition. In 1947 Hugh Dalton found it necessary to resign following careless remarks that enabled a London newspaper to reveal part of his Budget a mere half-hour before he had delivered it. We are now, regrettably, possessed of a political cadre from which honourable resignations are much less common. Mr Younger certainly should not be singled out for exceptionally harsh treatment, after an error which had no ill consequences. Nor indeed, should the government machine respond to criticism by bad-temperedly withdrawing all pre-publication information.

Most decisions or white papers are quite irrelevant to the financial markets; no money can be quickly made or lost on prior knowledge. But the Scottish Secretary slipped up with a piece of information of the type about which the Government demonstrates special concern, when its employees are suspected of deliberate or even careless leaks. Some recognition of this is necessary.

## The way ahead in Northern Ireland

From Mr Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Julian Amery and others (November 12) assert that a consultative council under an Anglo-Irish Agreement, giving the Irish Government the right to represent the needs and requirements of the minority community in Northern Ireland, should be "matched" by a similar body whose remit would be a similar role in the affairs of the republic.

The British and Irish governments are at one in their commitment to the fight against terrorism. They are also at one, too, in the conviction that action is necessary to create political structures in Northern Ireland which will reflect the identities of both communities, both traditions, there and thereby destroy support for terrorism.

The reasons why Dublin is being given a consultative role in Northern Ireland affairs are: 1. That the British Government accepts that the minority community in Northern Ireland have the right to participate in and to have their identity expressed in political structures there (whilst the Unionist majority have the right to remain in the United Kingdom as long as they wish).

2. That a way has not been found to persuade the Unionists to share power with the minority community.

The reason why Julian Amery and others are mistaken is that the problem is not in the republic, where the Protestant minority participates fully and freely in the republic's affairs. The minority in Northern Ireland, however, should not be denied the right to participate in the affairs of Northern Ireland: the British and Irish governments have decided that, and that is what this agreement is about.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD LEIGH,  
House of Commons.  
November 13.

## Clinical staff salaries

From Professor James P. Payne

Sir, In his comments (October 30) about clinical academic staff, Dr Burnett dealt with the failure of the Secretary of State for Education and Science to apply to his own performance standards which he demands from vice-chancellors and other university administrators. He also outlined the specific difficulties of the universities which have been aggravated by Sir Keith's tardiness.

The situation is even worse than indicated. Dr Burnett is, of course, right when he states that the universities have no direct part in the negotiations over salaries for clinical academic staff, but then neither do the medical unions. Precisely to avoid the unseemly wrangle over salaries which had been steadily developed year by year, a previous Conservative Government proposed an independent review body to adjudicate, and the British Medical Association and the British Dental Association accepted. Its terms of reference were to advise the Prime Minister on the remuneration of doctors and dentists taking any part in the National Health Service.

Thus there is no negotiation between the Government and the professions. Moreover, in 1969, Aubrey Jones, of the National Board for Prices and Incomes, proposed, and Parliament agreed, that the pay of clinical academic staff should be linked to and move simultaneously with the salaries of full-time hospital doctors and of dentists, since the NHS and the university jobs are interchangeable.

It would appear, therefore, that an attempt is under way to reverse by stealth a decision taken by Parliament more than 17 years ago. The total sum involved nationally is of the order of £1 million.

On the basis of expediency alone it would hence seem unwise of Sir Keith to alienate yet another group in the community, not least because clinical academic staff have the full support of their NHS colleagues both in the hospital service and in general practice.

Yours faithfully,  
J. P. PAYNE, Chairman, Staff Side, Academic Staff Salaries Committee,  
Royal College of Surgeons,  
35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

## Trees for the chop

From Mr G. Ashley

Sir, So 15,000 chestnut trees are to be chopped down to prevent Sheffield conker-seekers from getting knocked down (report, November 9, early editions). Let us leave aside the desolation of the streets which the city fathers will bring about at a stroke; what will the boys do instead, and where? Will the net number of accidents be larger or smaller over this three-week period next year?

Why not have a special speed limit, or even close some roads for the short time necessary?

There must be better ways of solving this problem than the mass destruction of trees.

Yours faithfully,  
G. ASHLEY,  
15 Birches Nook Road,  
Stockfield, Northumberland.

## Museum charges

From Mrs H. W. T. Willoughby

Sir, My memories stretch back much further than Mr Medcalfe's (November 7). I share his sympathy for Sir Roy Strong's position and for this reason made my "donation" yesterday at one of the very many cash registers which bear such an unfortunate resemblance to supermarket checkouts.

The difference is that at a supermarket you pay when you leave for what you have chosen to buy. At the V&A now you arrive not

## Self-regulation at Lloyd's

From the Chairman of Lloyd's

Sir, The article by your City Editor in today's issue (November 13: "Lloyd's, blinkered and unreformed") fails to recognise the essential feature of the Lloyd's self-regulatory system established by the Lloyd's Act 1982.

Your correspondent speaks of differences with other self-regulatory bodies which are to be brought within the scope of the forthcoming Financial Services Bill. Lloyd's already has a constitution established by Parliament. This requires the appointment of three classes of membership to the council - those elected by the working members, those elected by the external members (the Names) and, essentially, nominated members.

This latter group are required by the statute to be, and in fact they are, wholly independent persons. The importance of these independent members of the council is reflected in the work they do as chairmen of the most important committees of the council which are concerned with regulatory matters.

Their contribution to the implementation of the powers and duties of the council has admirably demonstrated how effective the Lloyd's Act 1982 is working in practice. I believe that we have a record of achievement in the self-regulation of Lloyd's over the past three years of which we can be proud.

Moreover, in my statement to the general meeting of members of Lloyd's earlier this month, I reaffirmed our continuing commitment

to taking whatever further regulatory steps are necessary. If comparisons are to be made with other self-regulatory bodies they can only be validly made with Lloyd's as it now is.

The current internal study into the management structure of the corporation of Lloyd's, referred to by the chief executive in his letter of resignation, was commissioned by the council. It is being led by Sir Kenneth Berrill, Chairman-designate of the Securities and Investments Board, who is one of the independent council members. It has nothing to do with the method of appointment of the chief executive since the present chief executive, myself, and the council are agreed that such an appointment should be made by the council.

There should be no doubt that Lloyd's remains committed to the concept of an effective chief executive and that he should also be one of the nominated members of the council.

Finally, it should be noted that the Fisher report was commissioned by the Committee of Lloyd's in 1977. It was as a result of that report that Lloyd's presented a new Bill to Parliament which became the Lloyd's Act 1982 and therefore preceded the appointment of the chief executive by a considerable period.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MILLER, Chairman,  
Lloyd's,  
Lime Street, EC3.  
November 13.

## TSB flotation

From the General Secretary of the Banking Insurance & Finance Union

Sir, The Trustee Savings Bank group is due for a flotation of shares next February. This is a major event, not only for the trustee savings banks but also for the whole of the British financial sector: we hope the flotation goes well.

The flotation follows the passage through Parliament of the TSB Act which received the Royal Assent in July. After much deliberation the Act and the flotation finally settled the question of who owns the trustee savings banks.

We represent all the staff of the TSB group and as such are conscious of the fact that the future of the TSB group relies very much upon the motivation of and support of the TSB staff in making the TSB group the third force in British banking. We are happy to lend our support to this enterprise because of our relationship with the TSB group and the various assurances we have received.

What is galling is the fact that various individuals and political parties - particularly in Scotland - have chosen to try and obstruct the issue of shares from a narrow and nationalistic point of view. There

has recently been a legal case in Scotland whereby a judgement has been made that the assets of TSB Scotland "belong to the depositors". This we now understand is subject to appeal.

It would be quite wrong for us to comment on a matter that is *sub judice* and we do not intend to do so. However, it must be said in the wider context that it is extremely regrettable that outside bodies purporting to have an interest in the trustee savings banks and their customers have chosen to pursue a course of action without any consultation with us or the staff of the bank concerned and we must question the motivation of those concerned.

There are too many enterprises in this country which are the subject of political manoeuvring. We had hoped that the trustee savings banks would be exempt from such manoeuvring: it is too late for all those concerned to appreciate this point.

Yours faithfully,  
LEIF MILLS, General Secretary,  
Banking Insurance & Finance Union,  
Sheffield House,  
17 Hillside,  
Wimbledon, SW19.  
November 12.

## Silver lining

From Mr D. M. Reeves

Sir, I am pleased to report one advantage to accrue from the present dispute in the teaching profession. I am not required to attend any out-of-hours meetings (42 this term, last year) or anything else except prepare, mark and teach.

For the first time in my career I am thus freed to do what I love to do and do best: teach. Can this be "damaging children's education"? I am, yours sincerely,  
DAVID REEVES,  
10 The Drift,  
Oakington,  
Cambridge.

## Selling the silver

From Mr Tom Jones

Sir, Many hardworking Conservatives who have never owned any of the family silver, wonderful furniture, or dreamy Canaletto, must, as I do, feel rather aggrieved by Lord Stockton's strictures (report, November 9).

For far too long the ownership of wealth in Britain has been largely restricted to old-fashioned landed gentry like our former Prime Minister. He, like many others, completely fails to grasp the fact that the present radical Conservative Government is actually allowing - for the first time in recorded history - ordinary men and women the right to choose to buy bits of the silver and pictures hitherto tightly controlled by a small clique known as nationalised industries.

I for one am delighted to tell Lord Stockton that for the first time in the history of my family some of our own shares in the family silver! Starting with Telecom, my wife and I have built up a small but exciting portfolio that gives us a feeling of actually participating more closely in the management of great assets.

If the distinguished lord wishes to criticise the most perfect expression of the Conservative ideal, then he might be better advised to start selling his own family shareholding, in parcels designed to attract the entirely new breed of small shareholders brought into being by Mrs Thatcher's personal vision and determination.

Many families in Britain today

## Correct title

From Mr A. P. M. Myers

Sir, Mr Nahum Meiman is described in today's issue (November 8) as a dissident.

He is no such thing as he does not wish to change the Soviet regime. He only wants to emigrate to Israel - a facility available to him under the terms of the Helsinki agreement.

He is a refusenik.  
Yours faithfully,  
A. P. M. MYERS,  
Exeter House,  
127 Stonegrove,  
Edgware,  
Middlesex,  
November 8.

might aspire to own more modest works of art than a Canaletto. With wider share ownership their prospects of so doing are very greatly enhanced.

Yours sincerely,  
TOM JONES,  
8 Cross Park Way,  
Crownhill,  
Plymouth,  
Devon.

## Choice of Ptarmigan

From Professor J. Helszajn

Sir, Part of the answer to your leader's disquiet (November 7) regarding the choice of the Ritz system over the Ptarmigan one is quite simply that parts of British industry are still overpriced and undercapitalized at every level as is only too well understood.

I have, this very week, a quotation on my desk from a major UK electronic company, whom I do not want to embarrass by naming, for the sort of items that are likely to be used in a system such as Plessey's Ptarmigan.

The UK price is £1,880 each with a six-month delivery. The quotation from AEG Telefunken in Germany for a similar item is £1,170 with a three-month delivery. I have tried without success to negotiate a price halfway between the two.

We add up this cost differential and time delay at every component level in the development of a piece of equipment and we have a Ptarmigan situation. Perhaps when we understand why a £1,880 component in a country with a low

## ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 15 1862

### AUSTRALIA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, SEPT. 26. The Great Britain sailed or steamed out of port at daylight on Thursday, the 18th inst. ... No poetical arguings have conveyed over half the world so rich a freight as the Great Britain will carry to England. She had on board 100,721 lb. of gold, valued at about 400,000. She was also 50,000 sovereigns, and 732 bales of wool, with other colonial produce, and upwards of 380 passengers. Of the gold she has on board 4,062 oz. are the produce of New Zealand.

The event of the month has been a new "rush" to Otago. A new goldfield has been discovered there. Some short time since two men, named Hartley and Riley, walked into Dunedin laden with 87 lb. of gold, which they deposited in one of the banks. This naturally produced a good deal of excitement and curiosity as to the locality of so rich a "find"; but, in colonial phrase, the men "kept it dark." They had before been suspected of luck, and were accordingly "shepherded" according to the approved stinker's fashion, but they managed to baffle those who wanted to know the whereabouts of the gold. The Government took the matter in hand, and agreed to give them a reward of 2,000, provided they would point out a goldfield which should yield 16,000 ounces within three months. Upon this guarantee they disclosed the upper branches of the Clutha, or Moineux River, about 180 miles from Dunedin, but almost inaccessible from want of roads. Crowds have, however, gone from Dunedin, but as carts, which is 1800 per ton, it is difficult to conjecture how the population will be fed, as this price would make potatoes about 2s. per lb., and everything else (except meat) in proportion "arpen-ters" and mechanics' wages had up in Dunedin to 20s. a day, and if the new field should answer expectation there will, probably, be as great a disturbance of prices as there was in Victoria some years ago.

As soon as the news was known there was a renewal of the excitement of last year, but rather more moderate in degree. Several large ships were immediately put on the berth, including the Lightning and other first-class vessels. The Lightning has since sailed with 81 passengers. The Melbourne and the Result sailed a few days after with about 1,000 more. In all some 5,000 have gone, and there are now about a dozen vessels advertised - namely the Wave, the Japanese, the Viceroy, the Mount Alexander, the Prince Albert, the Warner, the Golden Age, the Eliza Goddard, the Sea Nymph, the Mistress of the Seas, the Orient, the Nor-Wester, besides the passenger steamer, the Albatross, the Götterburg, and the City of Hobart. Several parts of New Zealand, remote from each other, are rich in gold cannot be doubted; but at Otago it will be obtained under difficulties far greater than any which the miners ever experienced here. The Otago goldfields generally are far less accessible to Dunedin than the Victoria goldfields ever were to Melbourne. The climate is very severe in winter and wet until about the turn of the year. Even if large numbers succeed in getting to the great suffering, disease and death to many. It was so here. The obelisk in the Great Exhibition does not indicate the cost, the sufferings and the disasters incidental to its production. In spite of all this, large numbers of our mining population are preparing to depart. They have been accustomed to look the hardship incidental to a new "rush" in the face, and the warnings and suggestions of difficulties, put forward in perfect good faith by the government, as jealous efforts to keep our people at home. The news from Otago (Auckland) is also rather encouraging; but as no high prize of 87 lb. of gold is held out, the "Diagon" rush absorbs every thought. At Otago gold mining, though offering no high prizes, is carried on without the enormous risks and privations incidental to the goldfields of the South. Some rich gold-bearing quartz has been found; so rich that about 400 ounces of gold are quoted as being valued at 1,000. When similar rich specimens are found here the diffused gold in the reefs usually bears a large proportion to the ton. There are other accounts of large "finds," but not so accurate. Then the quantity, the only true test being the quantity produced per week in proportion to people, and this test is not yet furnished. As before, a great number of persons unconnected with mining - professional men, merchants, clerks, and others are turning their eyes towards the islands of New Zealand, in spite of the constant return of many of the disappointed.

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what galleries will be open that day. If one lives in the country, as I do, one has to leave home before then.

In the past there have been disappointments from time to time and we, as owners by the grace of past generous donors, have taken them in good part; but in future I think we, the customers, no longer partners, may be more critical.

Yours faithfully,  
HILARY WILLOUGHBY,  
As from 2 The Grange,  
Mere,  
Wiltshire.  
November 7.







November 15, 1985

## SPECIAL REPORT

BUSINESS COMPUTERS/1

## A pause for the profit-makers

This year has been an extraordinary financial disaster across the board - from the sale of home computers to the manufacture of semiconductors.

For the more fortunate companies, typically those making larger computers such as IBM and Digital Equipment, it has been a year of reduced profits and cost cutting. For the less fortunate, such as Acorn, Apple and Sinclair, it has been a time of heavy losses, redundancies and fighting for survival.

It has also been a time, as the director of the Computing Services Association, John Ockendon, put it "for battening down the hatches". Companies have been reorganizing, slimming, consolidating, streamlining or however they want to refer to their attempts to weather a recession in the growth of computer sales that they prefer to call an "industry pause".

Business computers are still selling in record quantities - but the panic has been created because the remarkable and

## The growth rate suddenly slowed

sustained growth rate has finally slowed. Estimates of past and future growth rates vary widely but on average what has been a growth rate of 40 per cent a year - and climbing - has suddenly slowed to 20 per cent, a figure that would still be enviable for many more sedate industries.

But in the computer industry where budgets have been based on booming production lines, high employment and increased sales growth - companies, especially at the personal computer end of the market, are playing a bizarre form of musical chairs as they struggle to maintain at least part of their ambitious expansion plans.

Sales figures have usually increased, but profits have slumped.

Office automation company Wang, for example, saw turnover grow by 8 per cent for its last financial year but that



forcing a standard on other manufacturers who will not be able to risk producing products that cannot connect with those produced by the world's biggest computer company.

There are signs that the worst of the slump in the computer business is over as several companies have moved back into profit in their last financial quarters. Apple Computer, for example, moved from loss to a \$22 million profit in its last quarter.

At a time when companies are particularly concerned about their market shares and how their competitors are faring, close attention has been paid to the proliferation of surveys and market reports covering the industry. As the table shows there can be a wide disparity. In the three surveys shown the share of UK micro-manufacturer, Apricot, ranges from 4 per cent to 20 per cent.

While there is little doubt that the market for business computers will eventually return to its former glory - and

## Giving the customer what he wants

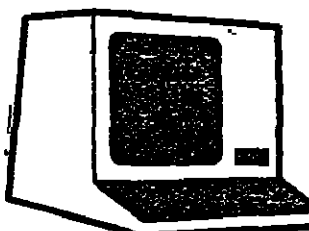
hopefully manufacturers will have learnt the importance of offering customers what they really want rather than just what technology can invent - the market for home computers has few encouraging signals either in the US or Britain.

Home computers that are used as glorified game-playing machines seemed to have reached saturation point and have failed to make the transition to wider uses.

Only Amstrad, with its recent £450 complete word processing system, has made any impression on getting adults to put computers in the home. For other manufacturers lining up a technically impressive range of new and more expensive home micros the question still remains, for all but the dedicated hobbyist, of what useful function they could perform.

Matthew May

## Make it simpler is the message



## THE INVENTORS

The computing industry bubbles with new ideas as never before. There is a ferment of invention which tantalises the businessman with visions of a mainframe on his desk, a computer in his pocket.

The technology seems to be there. Every sign is that computer hardware will continue to follow a rising curve to smaller, cheaper, more powerful machines for another decade at least.

To keep up with the competition, computer makers are increasingly having to put emphasis on reliability, security and back-up servicing.

Indeed, a lot of the extra processing power offered by emerging technologies will be eaten up by this urgent need to make computers simpler to operate.

So what are the technologies which will shape business computing over the next five to ten years? Forecasting is not easy. But for the memory or storage side of computing, most industry watchers are betting on the gradual emergence of optical systems to replace magnetic tapes and discs.

Far trickier to predict is the result of a battle being waged at the heart of computer systems, a clash over the shape of the central processing unit (CPU).

Most of today's central processors - be they single-chip microprocessors which power desk-top machines or mainframes which serve whole companies - are essentially unchanged from principles set down by mathematician, John Von Neumann, in the 1940s.

Computer designers want change, and the new ideas commonly bundled together under the labels of parallel

processing or fifth generation computing.

Experimental machines are starting to be built and should be appearing on the open market in a few years. The Japanese and Americans have invested heavily in research but British manufacturers, such as Immos, ICL, and Plessey, may even be ahead - with ideas and prototypes at least.

In England, several universities are involved in pioneering research work under the Government's £350 million Alvey programme. The Alvey programme recently pulled together the most promising strands into a £10 million project code-named 'Flagship'.

The fruits of Flagship are perhaps five years away yet but Bristol chip-maker, Immos, is already selling a chip, the Transputer, which embodies parallel processing ideas.

The impact of parallel processing is likely to be gradual. The first computers will be expensive workstations for engineers or million-pound supercomputers for scientists. In five or so years, as ideas mature, the great throughput inherent in parallel processing is likely to produce a host of new tools for the business user. These include voice-driven keyboards, electronic eyes which can read the printed word, and powerful database machines which can intelligently search out information.

While the processor faces a clash of philosophies over the next five years, the storage world promises less drama.

Coming through will be optical technologies to replace the various magnetic devices which have served the past 25 years. Optical is a general label for recording devices which use lasers to read and write data. Fully reusable optical disc drives have still to be perfected. But drives which can write only once or can only be read are already starting to be sold.

John McCrone

## The British specialists are looking healthy

British computer companies are increasingly having to find different ways of competing with the overwhelming presence of world leader IBM. Specialization in particular fields of the computer marketplace is seen as a way of managing to offer a better service as, it is said, IBM will not be able to pay so much attention to detail due to its presence in virtually every field of computing.

ICL, the UK's only indigenous maker of mainframes, is leading the way with its efforts in such niche markets as retailing, local government and several other areas.

Other UK suppliers are finding other specialist areas. Hertfordshire-based ITL supplies so-called 'fault tolerant computers' - the kind that can carry on working even after the failure of a major component. This type of computer is becoming increasingly necessary where people use computer systems, such as automatic teller machines in banks and electronic shopping, and any fault is highly visible and delay could lead to customer dissatisfaction.

But while computer companies can find viable places in the market they are also having to look to joint ventures with foreign suppliers in order to remain competitive.

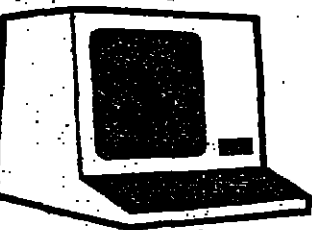
ICL is an example. Its links with the Japanese computer company Fujitsu are "crucial", says Alan Rousell, managing director of ICL UK. Without Fujitsu's help in mainframe manufacture, ICL's abilities to compete in other areas would be impaired, according to Mr Rousell.

"The problem we had in 1980 was that (mainframe) R&D was consuming too large a slice of funds", he adds.

The problems of making a new generation of mainframes are well known and they affect the American suppliers such as Sperry, Honeywell and Burroughs just as they affect ICL.

To defray part of that cost Robb Wilnot, ICL's managing director in the early 1980s, along with his chairman, Sir Christopher Laidlaw, decided ICL could subcontract some of the development work on mainframes to Fujitsu, one of the world leaders in chip technology. Fujitsu makes the basic processing technology in ICL's new mainframes. It is a road that most of the US mainframe suppliers have trodden, with the exception of the world leader IBM.

Earlier this year ICL unveiled the first major fruits of its deal with Fujitsu, in the shape of new top and bottom models, of its 2900 series of mainframes. And the machines have been well received by the market. "Mainframe orders are 20 per cent higher than last year", says Mr Rousell, but the value of



## THE MARKETS



Computer men: Alan Rousell (top) Robb Wilnot, and Kaspar Cassini.

those orders is 35 per cent higher, reflecting the increased value of the new top end machines.

ICL still makes the bulk of its money from the mainframe sector.

And while the percentage is down from the highs of the late 1970s, mainframe sales are just as important to ICL as they have ever been, he says.

He would be very bad for the UK companies if ICL did pull out of mainframes, states Mr Rousell. "The UK would be almost totally dependent on IBM mainframe and operating systems and their Japanese localities. And that would be very dangerous with one supplier calling all the shots in the mainframe sector."

The mainframe or mini computer should no longer be viewed in isolation, though. Most of the major customers for mainframes are looking at networks of computers linking mainframes, minis and personal computers and this is where companies like ICL and ITL have a major role to play.

There is no longer a debate over whether there should be a common standard for linking computers together. The idea has received approval from all the major computer manufacturers and from governments, including the UK Government.

The International Standards Organisation, backed by national standards bodies such as the British Standards Institution, is developing a standard for computer networking called Open Systems Interconnection (OSI), which, when fully developed, will greatly simplify the linking of computers from different manufacturers.

"OSI is absolutely vital," says ICL's Rousell. When OSI is fully developed, in about a year, and is supported by a wide range of products, then the market should increase dramatically and competition will be based not on being locked into one particular manufacturer as at present but on price, function and performance.

But it would be a mistake to think that OSI will automatically put an end to IBM's dominance of the mainframe market, where, according to independent estimates, it has a market share of around 70 per cent.

IBM is backing OSI and has launched products for its systems to support OSI. Kaspar Cassini, president of IBM Europe, has repeated IBM's commitment to OSI on several occasions recently. He has also criticized the idea that compliance should be forced by government decree, however.

And IBM is keen to be seen as a UK company and has been running a series of advertisements describing how much it does for the UK. The latest tells how IBM invested £1 million in the UK last week and the week before and every week so far this year.

The company employs more than 17,000 people in the UK. And despite its prodigious exports, almost £1,200 million, the company is not doing that much for the UK's trade imbalance in high technology. In fact IBM UK imports roughly as much as it exports: that is company policy.

It is reckoned that the UK could have a balance of trade deficit of around £4,000 million by 1990. That is another reason for keeping an independent UK mainframe and mini computer industry, even if it has to rely on overseas companies for some components.

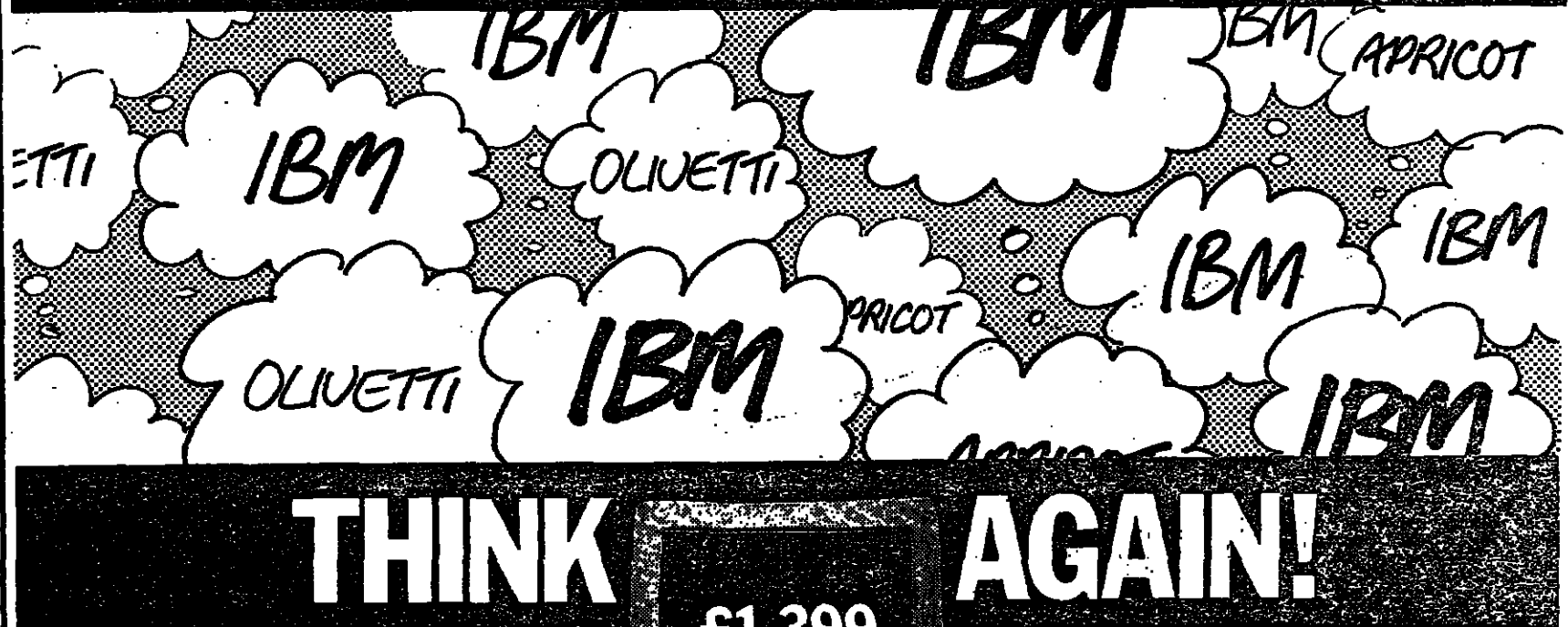
Kevan Pearson

## MICRO SURVEY, AUGUST 1985

(Market share by percentage)

	IBM	Apple	Compaq	Olivetti	Apricot	Others	Dealers questioned
Wharton	54	13	11	7	4	11	100
Contax	28	11	5	7	20	29	250
Romtech	45	8	3	7	17	20	250

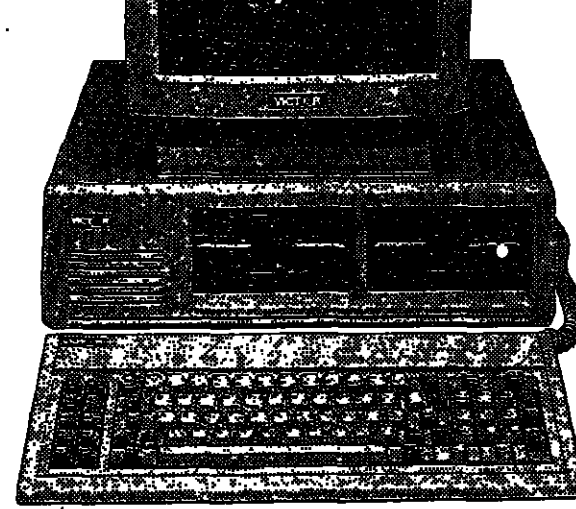
## Thinking about a computer?



THINK

AGAIN!

£1,399



MOST PEOPLE CALL IT A WINNER  
WE CALL IT A VICTOR

Victor first took charge of the office equipment market in 1917 with a mechanical calculator.

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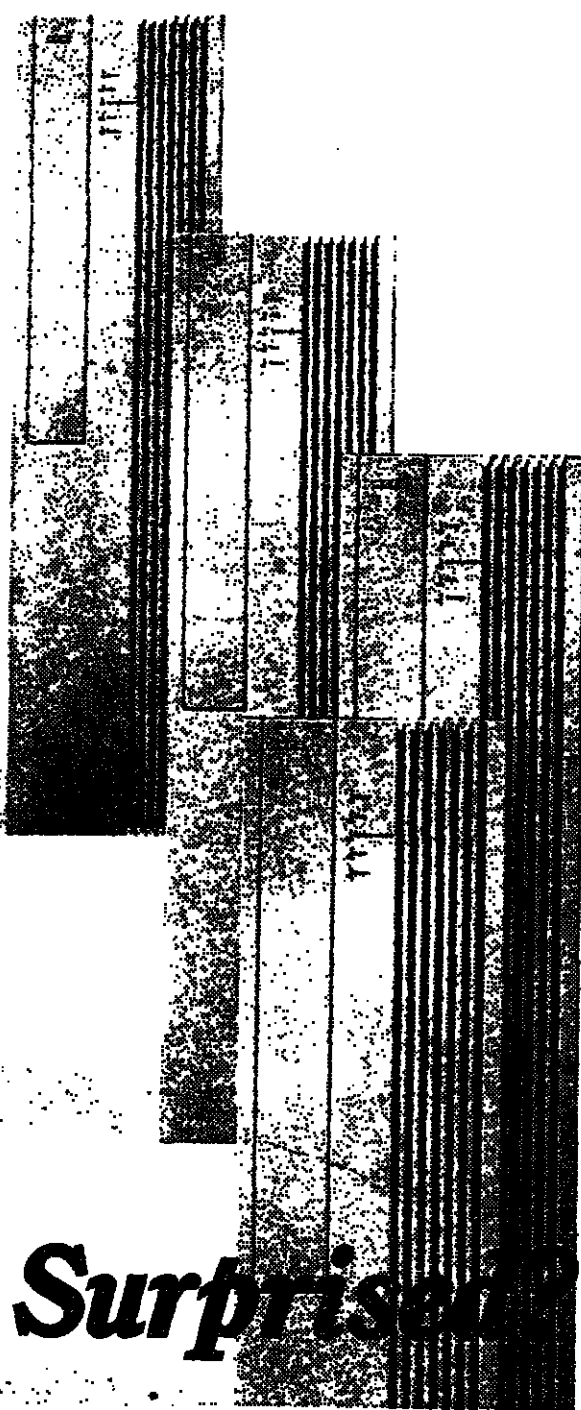
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## BUSINESS COMPUTERS/2

## SPECIAL REPORT

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## The search for a universal standard in product development could catch some manufacturers off guard

### A scramble to find mutual compatibility

As a species, *homo computerensis* is at an early stage of evolution. That might be the reason why the events that seem most to frustrate his development could come under the principle "it's the simplest things that go wrong".

An obvious example was the dilemma of a foreign correspondent colleague who arrived at a new posting equipped for the first time with a microcomputer, word processing software and acoustic coupler, ready to file his reports via the telephone direct into the office.

Unfortunately the cable connecting the micro to the

A second reminder has come with the introduction by IBM of its Token Ring Network, allowing buyers of that company's personal computers to link processors. In almost indecent haste manufacturer after manufacturer has announced that their equipment is compatible with the token network.

In fact the scramble to make sure that equipment, including keyboards, discs, printers and modems, will marry up to the IBM specification suggests (to paraphrase) that "he who dominates standards wins".

#### 'He who dominates standards wins'

telephone unit, while slipping neatly into the appropriate sockets was wired in an arrangement for plugging into a printer. A steam-age telex had to be unearthed for the rescue operation. The anguished user is still waiting for the replacement from London because there is no local supplier to provide a cable wired to the appropriate standard.

But the hypnotism that IBM commands, and which is demonstrated by the way that when it moves into a new area of product development myriad others follow with a copycat variety, can prove fatal to the unwary technical plagiarist. While major competitors regard the giant American company with respect, if not awe, the behaviour of one of the younger firms in the industry must be regarded as verging on audacity.

Before IBM has brought its own product on to the market,



this other company has introduced a development which allows the microcomputers of many manufacturers to be compatible with IBM.

The development in question is by Microsoft. Though regarded as pacesetter, the firm has shown great anticipation with software which IBM could choose to offer when it decides to introduce a 3½-inch disc machine into the UK. The beauty of the Microsoft product, already in use, is that it is now

being used by Apricot, Kaypro, Philips and Data General machines among others.

There is a caveat. If IBM adopts an alternative strategy by choosing a newly-announced type of high density 3½-inch disc drive, for which there are no compatible products released by Microsoft, a lot of manufacturers will be at a disadvantage.

Some brighter news about resolving the standards issues comes in the development of office automation systems,

which the Department of Trade and Industry has stimulated through its special Office Automation Pilot Projects: the scheme has nearly run its course.

The aim of ensuring machines of different manufacturers can be interconnected lies behind the support the Government's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency and the industry department have given to promote Open Systems Interconnections, or OSI.

Many man-years of effort have gone into agreeing a universal standard by specialists at the International Standards Organisation. They have worked with experts from each country, who, in the case of Britain, come from the Department of Trade and Industry's Standards Unit, the British Standards Institution and industrial groups.

According to the publication *Bulletin*, which charts case histories of the pilot projects, office automation is likely to be one of the main beneficiaries of the adoption of OSI as a standard. The technical specifications, which have been published recently, define the way in which information technology products, conforming to the OSI standard, from

#### Office automation will benefit

different manufacturers can interconnect and interwork with each other.

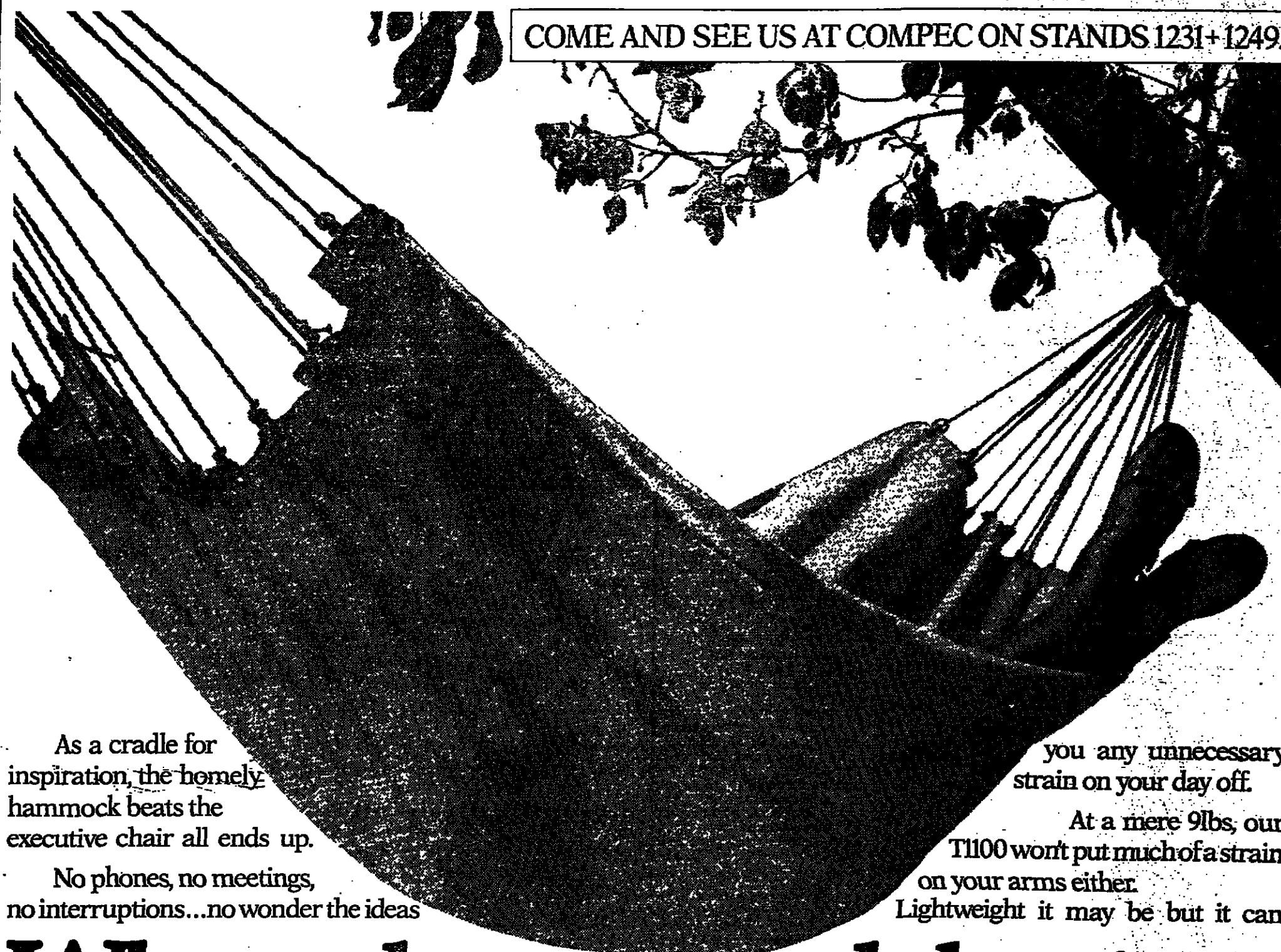
To increase awareness of the many standards now available, the industry department encouraged demonstration projects in which user and manufacturer collaborated in specific applications that would have a wide appeal.

But perhaps the most direct encouragement came with the central computer agency asking all suppliers submitting a bid to explain how they would exploit the OSI standards.

Pearce Wright

Science Editor

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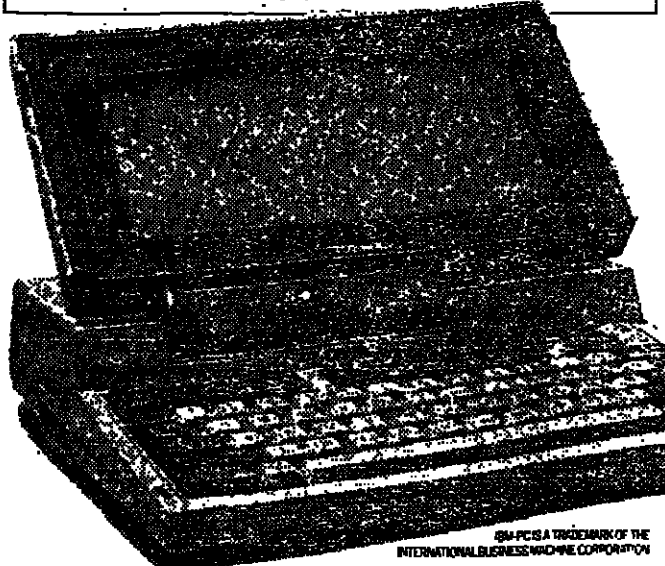
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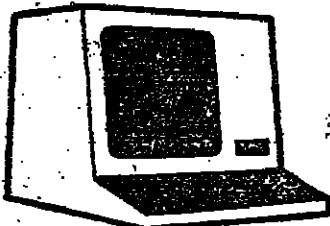
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## Three ways to get round the IBM monopoly



### P.C. CLONES

It has been more than three years now since IBM unveiled its Personal Computer (PC) and in doing so changed the face of the business microcomputer industry. In a recent months a more subtle - but no less significant - change has taken place with the advent of what might be called the affordable Small Business Computer (SBC).

Machines in this range can cost anything from a few hundred pounds (Amstrad's new £399 - plus VAT - PCW 8256 word-processing computer system is an example of the starting point for such a system) to about £1,500. Typically they will include some form of business software (often a word-processor, electronic filing program and a spreadsheet financial analysis system) and will have the capability to use software written for expensive business computers just two or three years ago.

SBCs also are not able to run programs written for the IBM PC and are difficult to hook into some form of larger office

fast, built-in computer applications software, the ability to send the information they have processed electronically via the international telex system and a sophisticated business telephone in a package that's not going to overwhelm their desks or take them years to learn.

Ignore IBM compatibility, but develop the machine around another existing business software standard - so that users will have a wide choice of reliable business software from the moment the machine is released to the shops. This approach seems to be by far the most popular among the manufacturers of SBCs in the £200 to £1,000 range. Commodore's new 128 computer, for example, uses the CP/M Plus business computer operating system - which means that it can use business software written for the Osborne-1, Kaypro and many other two or three-year-old business computers (including modified versions of CP/M programs written for the Apple II). In fact, CP/M has proved such a popular "second standard" among SBC manufacturers that it - and popular CP/M business software programs such as dBase II, Multiplan and Wordstar - is now targeted for use on computers made by Amstrad, Acorn, Enterprise, Epson and Apple.

The CP/M system, however, is more than three years old (although it has been updated many times) and programs written for computers using the CP/M system (such as the Commodore 128 and the Amstrad 6128) are often not much easier to use than those written for the IBM PC. One alternative to CP/M and the IBM PC standard is Digital Research's new picture-based command system called GEM (Graphic Environment Manager). This system is used on Atari's 520ST computer (a machine which offers disk drive storage, a black and white display, word-processing and drawing software and 512K RAM for less than £800) and is similar, in many ways, to the method of issuing commands on Apple's more expensive Macintosh computer.

### There will inevitably be specialist markets

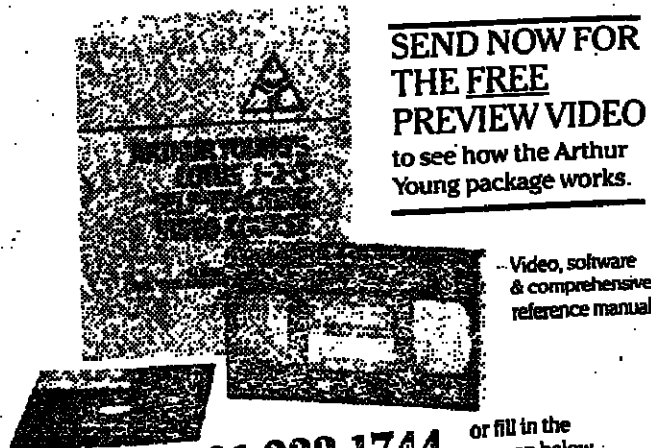
The final approach to a SBC is to knuckle under to the IBM PC standard, but to do so in such a way that low cost entry-level models can be offered for the small business computer. This approach has not yet yielded any machine much cheaper than £800 (and that's without printer or display and only 128K of memory) - although the competition in the PC-type market is bound to force prices on IBM PC-type machines well into the SBC market.

The question of which approach is actually right for the small business and professional user has yet to sort itself out. There will inevitably be specialist small business markets such as the one pioneered by ICL with its OPD "computer-phone" (or Integrated Voice Data Terminal, as ICL calls it), but it's not clear yet how many small businesses will want machines specially designed for them - instead of PCs designed for bigger companies. After all, most small companies aspire to greatness and wouldn't want to be lumbered with a system which can't grow with them.

Geoff Wheelwright

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## The high cost of keeping up with star wars



Never trust a research programme designed by committee. Be especially suspicious when that committee consists of government ministers, and be even more so when the designers are military men.

Recent events suggest that the author of that advice, offered earlier this year in the columns of the *New Scientist*, knows a thing or two. The note of caution was sounded over a plan called Eureka, an idea proposed by the French Government as a European alternative to the American Strategic Defence Initiative, or the more familiarly known "star wars" programme.

The purpose was to ensure that European countries kept abreast of the United States in advances in the next generation of microelectronics and computers and in lasers and communications technology. Conceived as a scheme to counter a possible threat to the high technology industries, Eureka was intended to stop the gulf widening between the science-based industries on either side of the Atlantic not to mention the gap with Japan.

The response showed that whatever effect President Reagan's initiative had on the Russians, it certainly frightened many of its friends among the Western allies.

That anxiety was still present when the foreign and technology ministers from 18 European countries held a two-day conference last week in Hanover to agree areas of cooperation for Eureka. Apart from the community countries, those taking part included Turkey, Switzerland and Austria.

All the countries are eager to cooperate in ideas which foster the development and manufacture of high technology products. The excitement is less pronounced when discussing how to pay for projects and how to organize them. The French have £90 million and the Dutch £6 million. Even the enthusiasts of the West German Government in support of the French initiative is tempered by limits on cash.

Money from the West German research budget for Eureka will not be made available for another year. Furthermore, it would be for projects on which industry spent the bulk of its own money.

There are wide differences among the potential partners about how to put the idea into practice. There are also critics who simply doubt the wisdom of this approach to collaboration because of past failures. Some of the vagueness surrounding Eureka has been removed by the Hanover meeting. There is agreement on specific technical goals, such as the importance of developing a 64 megabit memory chip, microprocessors that operate at

Esprit: How The Projects Are Divided

	Number	UK	France	Germany	Italy
Advanced microelectronics	28	18	18	17	6
Software technology	14	9	9	10	7
Advanced information processing	20	13	12	11	12
Office systems	23	14	15	16	15
Computer integrated manufacturing	19	13	10	13	9
Total	104	67	64	67	49

panies. There would be regular meetings by research ministers and their advisers. Since the programme goes beyond the community countries, the European Commission will have a place as if it were a government.

Eureka differs fundamentally from star wars because the American programme is a defence-led one. Yet there is a European industrial research programme in information technology, Esprit, that was started three years ago by the European Commission, with which Eureka overlaps.

The review made by a group of experienced industrialists pointed to a lack of commercial expertise in management of the programme in the European Commission. Their report recommends concentration on a smaller number of larger projects for the remainder of the venture, with attention paid to three broad areas of hardware, software and applications development which had clear implications to the strategic and commercial needs of the information technology industry.

The review also criticized the type of accountability and timetable used and recommended methods employed by successful high-technology firms for assessing research proposals, exchanging contracts and monitoring spending. Allowing for the shortcomings, the review team, led by a former vice-chairman of Philips NV, Dr Pannenberg, applauded the progress in the development of European standards.

In spite of criticisms, British companies are taking part in two-thirds of the 104 projects in the first phase of Esprit, having a presence in 67 of the undertakings.

Pearce Wright

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## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

# Share prices run out of steam after investors take profits

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Equities caught their breath yesterday after the record-breaking run largely inspired by the Chancellor's optimistic Autumn Statement. Setting was not heavy but with buyers staying on the sidelines the FT 30-share index slipped 7.6 points to 1,081.2 points. The FT-SE share index eased 5.2 points to 1,391.7 points, after achieving a modest gain at lunch time.

Although profit-taking clipped the leaders, there was a cheerful array of speculative gains as nimble-footed investors searched for the next company to attract a bid. The break-out of hostilities The Harris Queensway retail chain slipped 2p to 262p yesterday, unable to resist the market's downward drift. But Laker, Mank & Co, the broker, regards the shares as a strong buy and suggests that the present year's profits will be about £39 million and £49 million is possible next year.

over French Kier, the construction group, helped to keep the speculators on their toes. The bid from C. H. Beazer, after buying the 25.7 per cent FK shareholdings of Trafalgar House, lifted the shares 21p to 245p.

Davy Construction, the precision engineering group where Trafalgar House has displayed acquisitive tendencies, gained 1p to 117p at one time although it finished little changed. Some dealers took the view that now it had sold its FK shareholding, Trafalgar would attempt to absorb Davy.

The Beazer assault on FK, which has rejected the bid, puts into question FK's own offer for Abbey, the building group.

Oils were active. Although they failed to hold their best levels they responded to higher crude prices with British Petroleum gaining 6p to 556p.

Other blue chips to record progress included Allied-Lyons, up 2p to 288p. The Elders 255p a share offer document is expected on Monday. Grand Metropolitan gained 8p to 378p on the appearance of the Rank Organisation as a possible buyer of its leisure interests.

Government stocks, freed with little prospect of an early

interest rate cut, suffered falls of up to 1/2p.

Shares in General Electric Company went against the trend as the market heard that the electricals group is about to spend some of its cash pile. The word in the market was that GEC intends to buy the semiconductor division of Harris Corporation of the US.

The City has long wanted to see GEC expand, although few traders were sure yesterday if involvement in the micro-chip industry is the right move. Nevertheless, recent figures from the US suggest that chip makers are beginning to see an upturn in demand. GEC shares were 2p higher at 164p.

Meanwhile, Plessey shares fell 6p to 134p after the market digested the poor interim figures. Analysts emerged later in the day from a meeting with the company, and the news looked worse. City firms began trimming their full year forecasts, with Wood, Mackenzie, for example, chopping its pretax estimate to £160 million from £170 million.

The range of forecasts on Plessey remains wide, however. Supporters Scrimgeour-Vicker still expect £170 million, apparently, while bears of the group, such as De Zoete & Bevan, appear to be looking for just

Expectations of a bid for Silhouette Holdings, the bedding group, are growing. The shares rose 1p to 41p yesterday, making a 7p two-day gain. The suggestion is that Mr Tom Clarke, chairman, is willing to sell his 51 per cent shareholding. The company has had a difficult time, plagued by a wounding industrial dispute. But indications are that it is now trading profitably, although it may not have much to show for its efforts at the end of the year.

£150 million. In the year to March 1985 Plessey made profits of just under £164 million.

SGS, the scaffolding group which is resisting a £108 million offer from British Electric Traction, fell 2p to 256p.

Regional beer shares remained under the whip of the Monopolies Commission's warning to the national groups. Greene King and Sons, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries and Vaux Breweries were all trimmed again. Burtonwood Brewery slipped 25p to 484p after rolling out a 2 per cent interim profits fall.

Exco International gained 10p to 227p as the Kuwait

Investment Office, which, acquired British & Commonwealth's 22.2 per cent shareholding on Wednesday, sold on the stake to Far Eastern arbitrage dealer Mr Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat.

Acorn, the computer group, rallied 15p to 46p after losing ground on its yearly report and Jebsens Drilling, an erratic market on Wednesday, moved 9p higher to 33p.

Recent new issue, International City Holdings, retreated 4p to 195p. Inco, an oil and gas exploration group operating in North and South America, made a weak start to market life. Placed at 55p by Statham Duff Stoop, the broker, it opened at 52p and then struggled to 54p.

Delegated shares were in trouble again as the City continues to worry about tin trading for the foods to commodities group. The price dropped 13p to 423p. S & W Berisford was suffering from similar problems, and fell 5p to 156p.

Tesco, the food retailer, eased 5p to 29p as investors took in comfort on this week's figures and indulged in a little profit-taking. Other share prices among the grocers were pennies lower in the dull market atmosphere.

Elsewhere in the financial sector, prices were generally pennies lower, though there were gains of a few pence for Mercury Securities and Alroyd & Smithers. Mercury has recently seen Mr Saul Steinberg, a US investor, take a 10 per cent stake in its equity.

Composite insurers came in for another run as Royal Insurance revealed nine-month results at the top end of City expectations. The Royal share price rushed more than 40p higher to 773p on the news, and there were sizeable gains elsewhere.

General Accident rose 23p to 743p. Guardian Royal Exchange picked up 7p to 748p, having touched 758p at one stage, and Sun Alliance edged 7p higher to 555p. Only Commercial Union went in the other direction, down 9p to 244p. CU reported its nine-month results on Wednesday, and disappointed many analysts in the post-figures chat.

Novo Industri, the Danish drugs company, got a boost from its nine-month results yesterday. The shares rose £1.25 to £18.50 as sales of 3,117 million kroner (£230 million) and profits of 708 million kroner were announced.

Leigh Interests, the Midlands waste processor and industrial materials group, jumped 16p to

118p as speculative buyers moved into the shares. The company reports half year profits in ten day's time and the market is hoping for more leaps forward at Leigh. The pretax figure doubled in the whole of 1984/5.

The glint of Christmas could be seen on the share price of El Samuel, the jewellery business. The shares rose 6p to 85p as the market decided the present buying season will give its usual boost to profits. However, Raters, another well-known jeweller, slipped 1p to 119p, although these shares have had a strong run in recent months following a reappraisal of the business and its management.

Acquisition- and growth-minded Bunzl has been giving Hoare Govett, the broker, an outline of its plans for the next few years, and some bullish figures. The managing director, Mr James White, has told the City firms that, without more acquisitions, pretax profits should be not less than £100 million by 1989 and earnings per share at least 60p. The present price for Bunzl shares is 525p.

Henderson Administration, the investment and unit trust management group, slumped 80p to 840p alongside interim figures.

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## Chairman of Good Relations 'to stay'

By Cliff Feltham

Good Relations, the quoted public relations firm, hit by a wave of executive resignations, last night quashed reports that Mr Tony Good, the chairman, was about to stand down.

The denial came at the same time as Ms Maureen Smith's former chief executive who resigned recently, selling a large share stake, announced she was setting up a rival business with former Good Relations colleagues.

Mr Abel Hadden, chief executive of Good Relations' consumer side said: "Rumours did reach us that Mr Good was standing down and a firm of head hunters had been asked to look for a replacement. I think lines got crossed because we have asked the recruitment specialists MSL to find someone to head up our New York



Maureen Smith: setting up rival business

operations. Mr Good has no intention of stepping down."

He agreed it was possible the firm would lose business to Communication Group, the new venture set up by Ms Smith.

He said: "From the day she left we knew she would set up on her own but it is up to us to prove we provide the best service for our clients."

The new company has recruited Mr Jim Wakeley, a former director of Good Relations, as joint managing director with Ms Meave Murphy, Ms Susan Grant, Ms Diana Soltman and Ms Jacqueline Murphy.

Ms Smith declined to say whether she would be taking any Good Relations clients. "I shall make an announcement shortly," she said.

Good Relations shares were 2p firmer in the stock market at 148p having fallen from a peak of 280p last year.

Meanwhile, Saatchi and Saatchi confirmed that it was in bid talks with the financial consultancy, Grandfield Rork Collins.

A short time ago Saatchi had been tipped to bid for Good Relations.

## Mecca's faith adds to Grand Met's dilemma

In a perfect world a board of directors' responsibilities to its shareholders will not conflict with its responsibilities to its employees. As Grand Metropolitan has discovered, however, in its attempts to diversify itself of its Mecca Leisure business, this is not a perfect world.

The news that The Rank Organisation has come in with an offer which tops the Mecca management's own buy-out terms has posed Grand Met with something of a moral and financial dilemma.

Had Rank's £100 million approach been much higher than the management's offer - on the grounds that this is therefore best for the shareholders - the decision for Grand Met would have been quite straightforward.

However, it now transpires that the management buy-out itself valued Mecca at £90 million. Some £50 million of debt has already been underwritten with the further £40 million to be raised by the placing of equity with institutions eager to have the opportunity to participate in a potential First Leisure-style success story.

In simple cash terms, there is still a difference but that is soon eroded when other factors are considered. Rank would not take on some of the smaller loss-making operations which the management had agreed to do. This reduces the value of their offer by say £3 million.

On top of that, Grand Met would be obliged to give warranties to Rank far in excess of those to the management, which would leave the actual cash value of the two bids almost identical.

Enter now the moral dimension. The only way that Rank can make the investment in Mecca pay is to strip out large chunks of the head office and regional management. Perhaps 200 jobs could be lost which would otherwise have been saved by the management buy-out.

There must be value, no matter how intangible, which must attach to the improvement in staff morale and goodwill which would be generated if those jobs were secured. Grand Met does have some responsibility to its employees. It is a difficult question for

Grand Met to resolve. For the time being, the company has gone to ground although Rank now appears to be the favoured choice. Perhaps its offer has some other attractions. The payment package may, for instance, include an element of assets, perhaps the foreign holiday operations.

### Royal Insurance

Royal Insurance's third quarter results of taxable profits nearly quadrupled at £34.4 million confirmed the improving trend in the composite insurance sector and the shares bounced sharply higher to 775p, up 44p.

Although Royal, Commercial Union and General Accident have all said similar things about hardening rates worldwide adding up to a gradual return to acceptable levels of profitability, there are some marked differences in the results.

UK has done well in the United States but slipped slightly in Britain, whereas CU's recovery all came in Britain.

Despite the \$14 million (9.8 million) cost of Hurricanes Gloria and Elena, Royal made a third quarter pretax profit in the US and the nine months loss reduced to £34.7 million from £63 million.

Rates hardened by an average of 62 per cent in the quarter and 66 per cent in October on top of a 30 per cent increase in October 1984.

Royal's US portfolio is largely commercial, where the strongest recovery is coming, and it does not have the same problems that CU has with historical long tail liability business.

The British motor business, in common with the industry, was a headache for Royale. Claims frequency rose by 13 per cent in the third quarter and rates must duly go up again. A 9 per cent increase is scheduled for January after two increases of 6 per cent each in 1985.

The slippage in British profits from £23.2 million to £21.7 million was also caused by a concurrence of exceptional events all falling in the same quarter - three large commercial property fires, satellite losses and a £4.6 million loss from the Mexican earthquake, which came to Britain through

the international risks department.

The City is confident Royal is strongly set on the recovery path and full-year profits of £45 million are forecast, against £11.2 million in 1984. Next year there is talk of profits as high as £180 million to £200 million.

The shares have come up over 100p in the last three months and may be vulnerable to some short-term profit taking particularly if bad winter weather starts to produce heavy claims. In the long term, however, the shares look a sound hold.

### Henderson Administration

Henderson Administration, the Aspreys of British fund management, announced a mere 11 per cent or so jump in pretax profits. Investors, who have been used to far fatter percentage profit gains, showed their lack of appreciation in the usual way. The shares fell 70p to 940p.

A relatively Delphic comment about the sensitivity of group profits to the performance of world stock markets hardly helped sentiment.

Total funds under management are now worth more than £3 billion, and pension funds management have topped the magic £1 million mark.

This may look small change, compared with the reported £8 billion administered by Warburg, but the rate of improvement for Henderson is critical.

Granted the group's proven track record of above average fund management returns, and it seems highly likely that consistency and quality of earnings will dominate the earnings pattern, despite the manifest leveraging in the Henderson search for growth.

Typically, the group has another source of earnings growth. Interest receivable shot ahead this time to more than £2 million, and the group's cash cushion ought to generate about £3½ million by the year end.

The rise in interest receivable left the analysts, paradoxically, revising their forecasts for the full year upwards to about 80p. Next year about 95p looks feasible.

### RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
A M S Industries 5p Ord (85)	107	107
Colson Corp 5p Ord (90)	105	105
Conz Ltd 10p Ord (125)	105	105
CPI 5p Ord (125)	105	105
Davidson 10p Ord (160)	105	105
Eding Electro-optics 5p Ord (85)	105	105
Electronic Data Pcs 5p Ord (125)	105	105
Farbridge 10p Ord (120)	105	105
Gibson Lyons 10p Ord (72)	105	105
Hampden Resources 10p Ord (57)	105	105

### Traded option highlights

Traded options business totalled 16,937 contracts yesterday, with several options showing volume above 1,000. Contracts showed 1,458 contracts traded, the third day in a row for active business in these options, and BT reached 1,339. CU options hit volume of 1,498 and 1,253 contracts were traded in GEC.

### COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● CHECKPOINT EUROPE: The board report that the company, with more than 1,000 checkpoint systems installed in its territories, will continue to enlarge its customer base, pursue sales of the hotel guest-room safes, explore new products and strive for continuing improvement in research.

● LONDON & EDINBURGH TRUST: The company has sold its one-third interest in Billingsgate to S & W Berisford, which owns the rest. Billingsgate Developments developed the 185,000 sq ft Billingsgate office scheme in Lower Thames Street, London.

● RANDFONTEIN ESTATES GOLD MINING: The mining capacity of the mine will be increased by the construction of an additional 100,000 tonnes per month plant at Doornkop. The project will start immediately.

● PANCONTINENTAL MINING: The company has been confirmed as the joint venture partner at Delta Gold NL's Kanowna gold prospect, Western Australia. It will manage a 100,000 tonnes a year operation at Kanowna.

● TELEVISION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL: The company has moved a step closer to its aims of expanding activities in the television commercials market by encouraging management buyouts of the group production companies. Key employees, currently managing TSI's production companies are organizing management buyouts with the backing of the TSI board.

● GERMAN SECURITIES TRUST: The offer for subscription amounted to applications for 7.53 million shares. All valid applications will be accepted in full.

● L M ERICSSON: Results for nine months to September 30 with figures in millions of Swedish Krona. Net sales 21,533 (19,357) operating income 1,003.9 (1,565.1). Associated companies profits (net) 12.9 (66.8). Pretax income 508.2 (954.2).

● BRAMMER: The company's subsidiary Energy Services & Electronics has signed a memorandum of intent with Siemens Austria and Siemens in Britain to transfer to them the control of Neve Electronic Holdings (Netherlands).  
● NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK: In the year to Sept 30, pretax profit rose from Aus \$403.49 million to Aus \$491.28 million (about £230 million). The total dividend is being raised from 25 to 27.5 cents.

● MOSS ADVERTISING GROUP: For the year to August 31 with figures in £000, turnover was 6,078 (4,008) while the pretax profit was 422 (193). Earnings per share were 7.3p (3.3p).

No dividend will be paid for the year to last August. The company intends to pay an interim dividend for the current half year to February 28, 1986.

T V S Q S J T J O H

Clue: T=S

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ANSWER SUPPLYING

More company news on Page 26

## British Airports Authority.

Unaudited statement of results for the half year ended 30th September 1985.

	6 months to 30th September	12 months to 31st March
	1985	1984
Passengers (million)	30.9	29.5
Turnover	£m 238.9	£m 215.9
Trading Profit	95.4	80.1
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	-
Monetary Working Capital Adjustment	(0.3)	(0.3)
Share of Loss of Associated Company	-	(0.2)
Current Cost Operating Profit	95.1	79.8
Interest	(4.7)	(3.2)
Current Cost Profit before Taxation	90.4	76.6
Taxation	(57.0)	(46.2)
Current Cost Profit after Taxation	33.4	30.4

### NOTES

1. The unaudited statement has been prepared under the same accounting policies used in the statutory accounts for the 12 months to 31st March 1985.
2. Trading profit is stated after charging depreciation on the basis of current cost.
3. Taxation has been provided at the estimated tax rate for the full year after taking account of the estimated capital allowances for the year.

### STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, SIR NORMAN PAYNE, CBE, FENG, FCI

The first half of each financial year is always more profitable than the year as a whole because of the seasonal nature of the business and the policy of peak charging during the summer months.

Passenger numbers increased by 5.1% over the same period last year contributing to an increase in turnover of over 10%.

Pre-depreciation costs per passenger were held at the same level as the first half of last year, a reduction of 6.3% in real terms.

The number of passengers per employee increased by 4.6% over the same period last year, and profit was 19% higher than the first half of the last financial year. Capital Expenditure was £82.8m, up 9.4%.

The immediate outlook is satisfactory with passenger throughput continuing at higher levels than twelve months ago.

British Airports

British Airports Authority, Head Office, Gatwick Airport, Gatwick, West Sussex.

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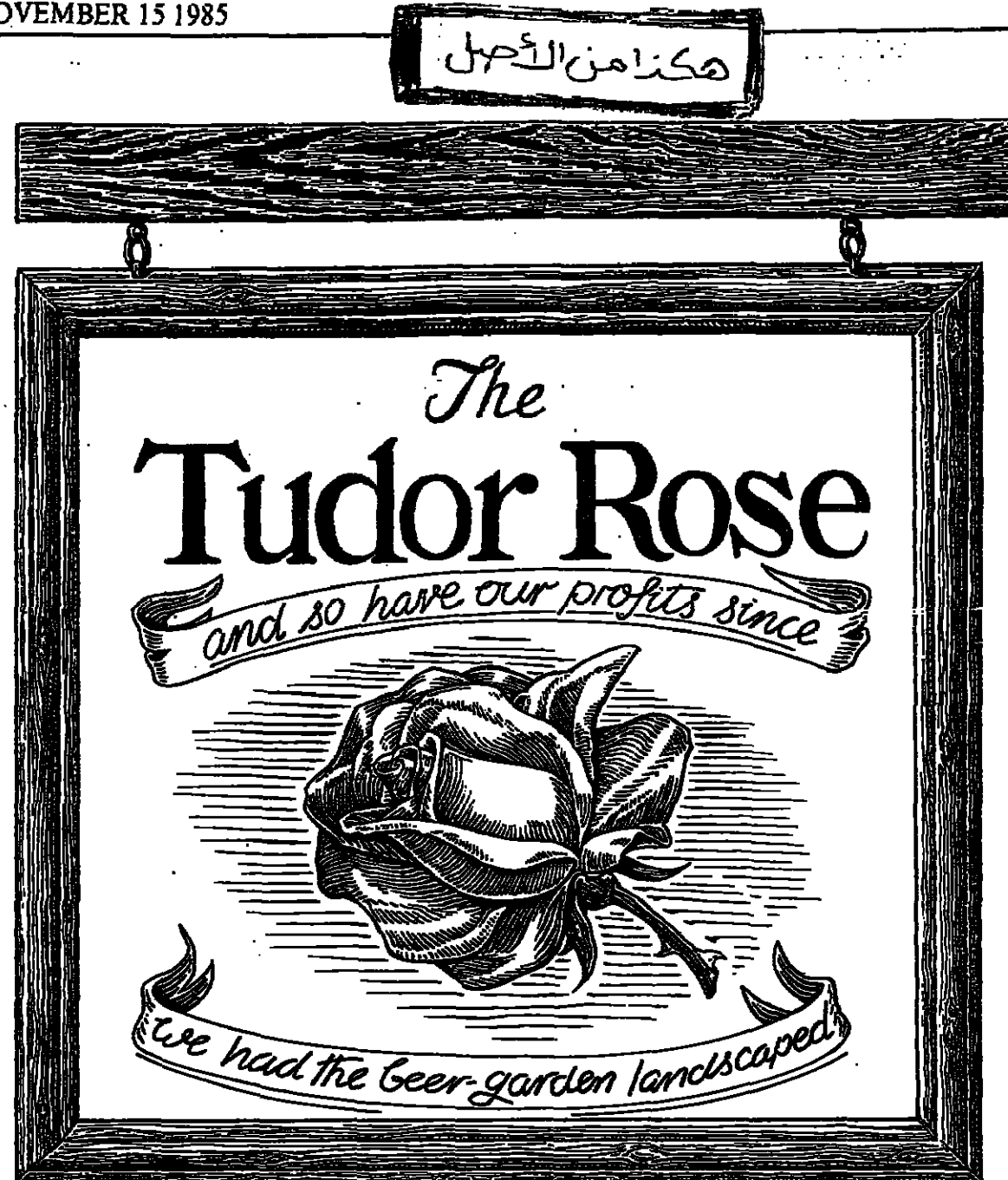
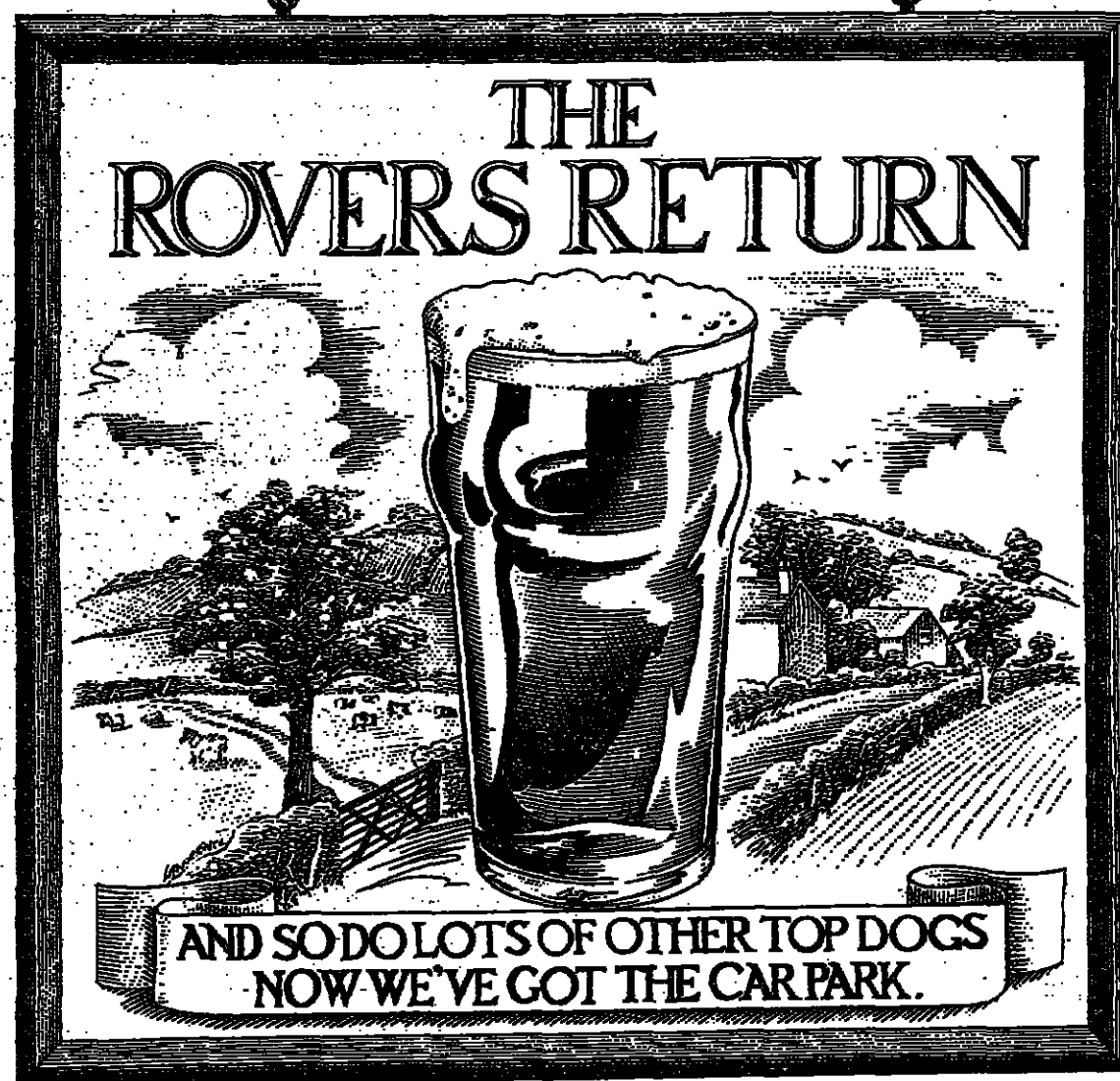
# BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

**COMMERCIAL AND  
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES**

**also on page 30**



What's  
happened to  
our pubs since  
we ploughed  
£275\* million  
into them?



No small beer.

But then times are changing and so are Allied-Lyons. That's why many of our 7,000 pubs have had more than just a face lift. Five years ago we saw the writing on the wall. The public wanted more from their public houses.

More modernisation but less plastic. More traditional pubs. More facilities. So in 1980 we started to give them what they wanted.

Our first improvements soon paid dividends (in fact many of them ahead of schedule).

Since then we have ploughed more and more into our pubs and the returns have grown accordingly.

All the signs show it could be one of the best investments we've ever made.

**Allied-Lyons**  
In the five years up to February 1985, our pre-tax profit rose from £112m to £219m.

\*Reinvestment and improvement expenditure in the latest five financial years.  
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Bailey Morris talks to James Baker, the 'activist' US Treasury Secretary

# December deadline for America to prove itself worthy of leadership

December may be either the best or the cruellest month for James Baker in his ambitious drive to re-establish the United States as the world leader in international economic matters. In his Treasury office, seated behind a desk bearing Harry Truman's motto, "The buck stops here", Mr Baker makes clear he is an "activist" Secretary, who has both a mission and a deadline.

"We would not be displeased if the rest of the world regarded our actions as a reassertion of US leadership, and if that is the result, it is appropriate for the world's largest economy to lead in international economic matters", he said.

In the 10 months since assuming office, after managing the Reagan White House in the President's first term, Mr Baker has taken two initiatives on the dollar and debt which have re-energized the US Treasury, moving it from a period of benign neglect to its more traditional US post-war role.

But following on the now-famous September 22 "Plaza Hotel" meeting, at which ministers of the Group of Five industrialized nations agreed in concert to check the destabilizing rise of the dollar, Mr Baker must now demonstrate that the exercise was more than just powerful rhetoric designed to talk down the dollar.

He must demonstrate that the United States can get its own fiscal house in order. This is necessary before phase two of the Baker exchange rate initiative, to lower the dollar effectively through coordinated domestic fiscal policies, can be fully implemented.

"Substantive action on the deficit clearly must be the undertaking of the United States. If we cannot produce on our own undertaking, then we cannot expect as much from others", he said.

He sees phase two as a series of broad policy initiatives by a small number of countries which will set the economic pace for the rest of the world. In other words, he sees a newly enhanced role for that small club of ministers known as the G5 nations, and encompassing the US, Britain, Japan, West Germany and France.



James Baker: powerful rhetoric not enough

"The G5 is the appropriate forum. In terms of the international monetary system, it is a particularly good forum, because you have the three main reserve currencies of the world represented, the dollar, the yen, and the mark. The

major players are represented", he said.

Under Mr Baker's plan, the next step in the drive towards international monetary reform is a demonstration of "political will" at the next session of the G5 to take coordinated economic

measures to reflate economies in Europe, and Japan, and impose discipline on United States deficit-driven growth.

"This is the purpose and goal of future G5 exercises - to take the political measure of each

country's progress towards the present commitment."

But in a world beset by rising fears over another deep recession in the United States, the prospect of Third World default, growing protectionism which threatens to shut down the trading system, it is unclear whether these steps will be sufficient.

Mr Baker acknowledges that he will have greater bargaining power to effect change if the United States Congress enacts substantive deficit reduction measures in the form of a balanced budget amendment or other legislation by next month.

At the moment, he is cautiously optimistic. "I do not think it is as dire as some suggest. I think we will ultimately see something like the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings (balanced budget amendment) legislation", he said.

But his political senses are too well-honed to predict outright victory. "This is a grave problem for us. It has been the source of the major political debate in the United States over the course of the last four or five years."

Mr Baker worries that the world will regard the United States as a "state of political gridlock" as some critics suggest. "One house of the Congress dominated by one party thinking one thing, and another party thinking something else, while the executive branch rules that the revenue side of the balance sheet is off limits", he said.

A key part of his mission, then, is to break that "gridlock", using his demonstrated powers as a political persuader to manage an effective deal between the White House and an embattled Congress on deficit reduction. At the moment, the Administration itself is divided on this issue.

With a domestic victory in hand, Mr Baker moves on to a broader stage, attempting to move the world forward with the confident leadership exhibited by the US after the Second World War, when it initiated the Bretton Woods conference to reform the international monetary system and established the Marshall Plan to rebuild war-torn Europe.

## OECD approves debt plan

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, during a three-day meeting in Paris on perspectives for the world economy, has approved the plan by Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, for extended bank credits to the world's most indebted developing countries, Susan MacDonald writes from Paris.

The plan to increase by \$20 billion (£14 billion) over three

years the amount of credit on offer by banks to aid the Third World countries most severely in debt, was put forward last month by Mr Baker.

He said the proposals would represent no more than a 2.5 per cent increase in overall banking engagements. Mr Christopher McMahon, representing the Bank of England at the Paris meeting, estimated that the OECD had now recognized the dimension of the

debt problem and understood the necessity to share the burden.

The OECD meeting considered the plan "extremely constructive" in aiding the 15 most indebted countries to redress their economy.

Earlier this week the plan had been approved by the governors of the industrialized countries' central banks at their meeting in Basle.

### APPOINTMENTS

## Noreros names director

Noreros: Mr John Redwood has joined the board as a non-executive director.

Greenham Trading: Mr William Bonneywell has been made chairman, Mr Brian Abrahamson becomes managing director, Mr George Adams, deputy managing director, and Mr Philip Crumley, divisional director.

Broad Street Associates: Mr Colin Bayley has been named a director.

Newman Industries: Mr David Dunn has been made group managing director. Mr Alfred Smith becomes finance director.

Drayton Japan Trust: Mr Nicholas Johnson becomes a director.

Meyer International: Mr H. G. DeVille has become deputy chairman.

Export Guarantees Advisory Council: Mr Peter Schfield, director of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Company, has become a council member.

Guinness Peat Group: Mr David Kelly and Mr Bruce Urrell have joined the board.

Rohm and Haas Company: Dr Basil Vassiliou has been named regional director for Europe.

The Sheffield Insulating Company: Mr Frank Prust becomes company secretary and a member of the group executive board.

Associated Deliveries: Mr Alan West has been made managing director.

Package Programs of London: Mr Edwin Goodall has become finance director.

Snowdon & Bridge: Mr Ian Hendricks has been made a non-executive director.

Price Waterhouse: Mr Christopher Burley is a partner in charge of the Windsor office.

E. P. International: Mr Barry Drinkwater has joined the board.

Funds Transfer Shering: Mr J. M. Glover has been elected to the board directors.

RHP Bearings: Mr Peter Wheelodon has joined as sales director of the industrial bearings division.

Calway: Mr Chris Galliver is the new chairman.

John Finlay: Mr Michael Rhode has been elected chairman.

Evered Holdings: Mr Roy Kettle has joined the board as a non-executive director.

Nolton Development Capital: Mr Andrew Boyle has been made a non-executive director.

### RUGBY UNION

## Five-year plan that is needed to boost Welsh youth game

By Gerald Davies

It is not only the transition that is occurring in the team at international level that is occupying the mind of John Davies, the Welsh Rugby Union coaching officer, but it is the debate over the structure of play at club level, although both these may be affected in time.

It is the shifting structure underneath which is concentrating his mind. He is aware that the old system of school and schoolboy rugby which cater for the needs of the young player may have to adapt to the changing times if they are to survive. The opportunities available to young people are no longer the ones to which we have grown accustomed.

There is serious concern at schools in Wales - and England - that the teaching profession has only served to highlight. There is no rugby being played at present. While some teachers may regret the situation, others admit to enjoying the release from their after-school and weekend commitments.

Others feel sorry at the gradual erosion that has taken place in their grass and capital allowances, and in order for sport to survive at a certain level, teachers are spending more and more of their time as humble sales organisations or fund-raising entrepreneurs so that kit can be bought and buses paid for.

If these grievances have been understood for some time, there is a big structural change occurring in the more prominent role gradually being undertaken by the tertiary colleges (six form colleges and further education) and which will affect rugby in the long term. The disappearance of the grammar schools, with their traditional strong identities and which made such an undeniably influential contribution to rugby in Wales, has been a valid argument to explain the diminishing number of school teams in Wales.

It did not radically alter the role of the school though. The rise of the tertiary colleges may very well do so.

A paper prepared by the East Gwent Youth Committee in 1983, forewarned of the future problems in the light of the difficulties they were then encountering in the area, specifically at the tertiary colleges at Pontypool and Chepstow.

The intake at these colleges include as well as those people who are continuing with their formal education and are studying their O and A-levels, but also students who are on sandwich courses or youth training schemes. Such diverse groups are bound to have conflicting interests. The first group technically belong to the Schools Rugby Union, while the other comes under the Youth Rugby Union. Attempts to integrate them under the banner of the college team have largely failed.

Over the last decade or so schools rugby has suffered severe setbacks. In the initial round of comprehensive

### Campion school to play Australians

The Australian school will not play the Welsh secondary school during their tour of Britain and Ireland which begins next month (David Hands writes). The teachers' dispute, has forced the Welsh to suspend the tour of their side and the Champion School, Harrogate, has come to the rescue of the touring side by agreeing to play that same weekend.

The Australians were due to play Wales on December 27, but they will now play Champion on December 20 under lights at the Basilston Rugby Club where the local council have agreed to erect a temporary stand for the game. Champions have recently toured Australia.

The touring side may yet play one match in Wales before crossing to Ireland for three matches. The Welsh hope to be able to put out a Select XV on December 23.

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Over the last decade or so schools rugby has suffered severe setbacks. In the initial round of comprehensive

## Ulster boys emulate the seniors

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

English representative schools rugby has scarcely got underway, so that Ulster 18 Group, over on short tour, profited from a degree of uncertainty and improvisation in the opposition to register wins against Cambridgeshire, on Tuesday evening at Doncaster, and against Yorkshire 18 Group, 21-6, on Wednesday at York.

Mark Appleton of Fyling Hall impressed for Yorkshire as did David Todd and Alan Simpson, back-row forwards, and Mark McCall at stand-off half for Ulster. It was only 7-4 at the interval but greater fitness and, on the day, superior skill proved decisive.

Narrowly final beat Wellington after an interval approaching 17 years. Harrow enjoyed first-half wind advantage and a lead; Gareth Rees, who played for the Middlesex senior team on Wednesday, scored all their points, from a try made by his scrum half, Rupert Brinkley-Frisky, and a well taken drop goal. Michael Riemann, Dev's youngest son, kicked two penalties but a try from Brinkley-Frisky made the final score 11-6.

Radley beat Cheltenham 9-3 to maintain their unbeaten record though Cheltenham scored two tries from a pushover and from their lively scrum half, Hampshire, after a kick had been charged down - to Radley's one - from their wing, Ajoos.

Another side flourishing impressively is Pocklington. After a couple of early slips, they have been in tremendous form, their two latest victories coming over Bradford G.S. (15-8) and Leeds G.S. (3-0).

Two other schools with excellent records are Brynston and St Bees. Brynston, led by their scrum half, Phil de Glanville, have won eight out of their nine matches, the only blemish being a 6-6 draw against Tannem School.

St Bees, a relatively small school, have lost only one of their 10 matches, out of 11 matches. Their last three victories have been against R.G.S. Newcastle (20-0), Barnard Castle, who were previously unbeaten, (27-4), and Q.E.S. Penrith (38-6).

## RFU approval sought for new league

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

The Rugby Football Union are to be asked to approve a league scheme for clubs in the north-east of England to match that which exists in the north-west under the aegis of the National Giro Bank. Although the RFU have indicated that they wish to monitor the two pilot league schemes the other is the Greene King club championship in the east. There is optimism that the north-east will get their league even if they have to wait for it.

Mr Britherton, the Lancashire secretary and chairman of the North-West League committee, said: "We are very pleased with the impact and progress of the new league system, one which looks like being the model on which future development should be based". West Park are leaders of the first division, having beaten Lymington 16-3 last weekend. Mid-Cheshire College head the second division.

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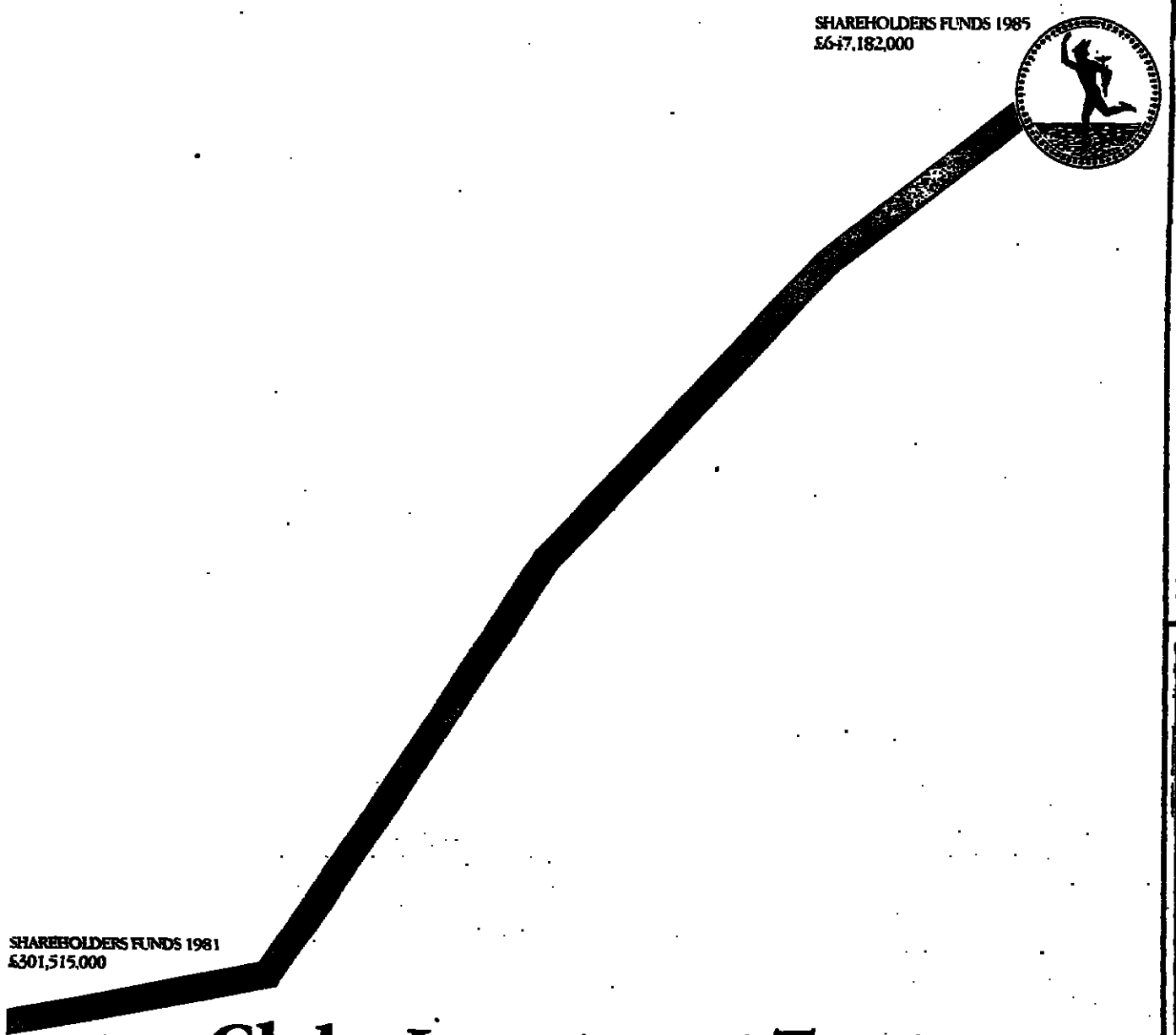
### VOLLEYBALL

## Poles may learn lesson

By Paul Harrison

Poles face the hard reality of the continental game in the form of the European Cup next month. Not even the most optimistic supporter of the Poles from west London could expect them to survive the experience - the best they can hope for is to learn from it.

While the English champions have been relatively comfortable in their round 5-1 victory over V.C. Mamer of Luxembourg, Dynamo had a real fight on their hands. Scrambled from behind, they took a home leg 3-1 and then took a set in the return last weekend as Dynamo scraped through on a better set difference. They will find things easier against Poland. We will have to play at our best to have chance of winning."



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BCCI	11 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12%
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Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

## WADE

Preliminary results for the year ended 31st July, 1985

- \* Pre-Tax Profits £1,657,805 (an increase of 47.7% on 1984 £1,122,529)
- \* Dividend increased by 20% to 3.0p per share
- \* "... New developments proceeding well and Marketing team further strengthened"

Anthony J. Wade, Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available on 8th December from:- The Company Secretary.

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**BIRTHS**  
**BRIDGES** - On November 13, 1985, a son, William, was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bridges. The child weighs 7lb 10oz and is 19 1/2 inches long. The family is delighted to announce the birth of their first child. The father is a member of the Royal Air Force and the mother is a member of the Royal Navy. The child is named after his grandfather, William Bridges. The family is living in London. The father is a member of the Royal Air Force and the mother is a member of the Royal Navy. The child is named after his grandfather, William Bridges. The family is living in London.

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**DEATHS**  
**BRIDGES** - On November 13, 1985, a son, William, was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bridges. The child weighs 7lb 10oz and is 19 1/2 inches long. The family is delighted to announce the birth of their first child. The father is a member of the Royal Air Force and the mother is a member of the Royal Navy. The child is named after his grandfather, William Bridges. The family is living in London. The father is a member of the Royal Air Force and the mother is a member of the Royal Navy. The child is named after his grandfather, William Bridges. The family is living in London.

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 THAILAND 2596/97  
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 CHINA 2598/99  
 SOUTH AFRICA 2599/0







